

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 27th August 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. Deputy President (M.R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E.) in the chair.

I

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I have to inform the House that the following six gentlemen were nominated for election to the Select Committee to consider the amendments to Standing Orders Nos. 3 and 49 :—

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| 1. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 4. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 2. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 5. Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 3. " M. Ratnaswami. | 6. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. |

"As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely six, I hereby declare the above-mentioned gentlemen to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote.

"I have nominated Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, a chairman of the Council, to serve on the Committee under Standing Order No. 77."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1925-26—cont.

Grant XIX—cont.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Is the hon. Member Mr. Veerian going to press his amendment?"

* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Unless, Sir, some satisfactory assurance is given; unless the hon. the Minister promises to show practical sympathy towards the depressed classes, I think that I had better press my motion."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"Sir, usually after question time we used to have a quarter of an hour for the transaction of miscellaneous business. Can we not have it to-day?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Somehow or other we have no questions to-day."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"Can we not have it now?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"There is nothing in the agenda. Then, may I take it that the hon. Member, Mr. Veerian, is not pressing his amendment?"

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"The hon. Member says that unless the hon. the Minister gives some assurance that he will show some practical sympathy towards the depressed classes, he is going to press his amendment."

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The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I do not think this sort of conditional promise will do ; I do not think that the hon. Member is in order."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. Deputy President, yesterday in the course of my remarks I said that the claims of the depressed classes for a special water-supply scheme will be considered by the local bodies concerned if there is a strong case for it in any particular locality. Already there is some allotment made to be utilized by the Protector of the depressed classes for this purpose. My hon. Friend wants an assurance from me. The grants are made to the local bodies ; and it is left to the discretion of the local bodies to give him any assurance."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, in this connexion I wish to bring one or two important cases to the notice of the hon. the Minister and all those who are in power. There is a well in my district for the depressed classes. There was such a great need for good water in that locality that the people of the depressed classes themselves undertook to dig the well. That well now requires some slight repairs. For the last one year they have been trying to get that repair done. They approached the labour officers in the district ; they were referred to the president of the taluk board and the members of the taluk board ; they approached the president of the taluk board and also the members of the taluk board. The poor people went the length of saying that they would repair the well themselves at the actual cost but nothing has been done for the last one year. The well is in a place called Piduguralla in Guntur district. There are large numbers of cases like this ; and if the labour officers and the officers of the taluk board visit those places personally and attend to the matters on the spot much of this question would be solved."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have once already told the House that the grants are made to the local bodies and not to the officer in charge of the work of the amelioration of the depressed classes. As such, it will be impossible for the Minister to give any assurance. When the grants are once made, the schemes will have to be executed by the local bodies themselves."

* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Yesterday, I wanted a definite sum to be allotted for sinking wells to provide water for depressed classes in rural parts ; for, when the money goes out of our pockets, there is no control whatever. There is no guarantee that the local bodies will set apart a definite sum of money for this purpose. There is water scarcity not in one district only but in almost all the districts. There are not very many depressed class members on the local bodies. It is not possible to expect the local bodies to do their best for the depressed classes. They may say that the principle is very bad ; but why should we not make an exception in the case of the depressed classes ? If there is a mind to do it, we can do it. That is the only point that I want to emphasize on this hon. House. Are there not exceptions for every rule, and in this case why should we not make an exception if we know the deplorable condition of the depressed classes ?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" So the hon. Member is withdrawing his amendment ?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" No, Sir."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" You want a definite sum to be set apart for the water-supply to the depressed classes ?"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I am not able to understand what my hon. Friend really wants. There is at present a department in charge of the

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activities for the amelioration of the depressed classes over which the Commissioner or the Protector presides. Does the hon. Member want that a Labour department should be constituted in every local body? If that is the case, I must at once say that it is not possible. The grant is being given to the local bodies and I cannot ask the local bodies to do this and that without fettering their discretion. That is the real difficulty. The hon. Member for the depressed classes may ask for a special grant to be made to the Protector of the depressed classes. That will be the proper course. I do not think, Sir, the hon. Member was right when he said that if there was a will there would be a way. There is no doubt that every one of us will sympathize with the sufferings of the depressed classes.

"But what is the means that he has suggested? Is it possible for us to constitute a Labour department or a Depressed class department for all the local bodies? That is impossible."

* Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“We all appreciate the earnestness and enthusiasm with which my hon. Friend 11-15 a.m. Mr. Veerian is pressing the claims of the depressed classes. There is none in this House or any other House who will say that we should not allot more funds for the amelioration of the depressed classes. I think the object which he has in view will not be achieved if he were to say that the local bodies should not be allowed a discretion in making use of the grants made to them. I have observed from his statements made on the floor of this House, as often as possible and in season and out of season, that he has a distrust in the local bodies in the matter of the utilization of the grants made to them for various purposes. If he has been careful and if he has obtained definite information about the neglect of a particular local body in looking to the interests of the depressed classes, it is open to him to bring it to the notice of the Government and to obtain a special grant for that purpose. But when we are trying our level best constantly to consider the claims of the depressed classes that an hon. Member should distrust the local bodies and say in season and out of season that they are not looking after the interests of the depressed classes is a thing which I must emphatically protest against. I can quite understand the case of irregularity in a particular local body. In such cases the hon. Member has other remedies open to him. After the receipt of a Government order regarding the grant for village water-supply we received a communication from the Labour Commissioner cancelling that grant. In the first instance I received a communication placing a sum of Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of the president of the district board for the construction of wells for the depressed classes and I was asked to do that work in consultation with the Collector of the district. When all the arrangements were made for the purpose of sinking wells for the depressed classes, I received a communication that the grant was cancelled as we were to get something else under some other grant. That is a position in regard to which we are entitled to enter our protest. That grant had been made for the express purpose of sinking wells for the depressed classes and when all arrangements were made the grant was cancelled and we were informed that we would get something from the general grants. I think it is still open to the hon. the Home Member in charge to reinstate the grant which I referred to, especially more so as that grant was for the purpose of digging wells for the depressed classes. That was a very urgent matter and the Government ought not to have withdrawn that grant.

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"Sir, in conclusion what I would point out is that it is impossible for any one to place any definite sum or earmark a particular portion out of that grant saying that it is for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the depressed classes. You must trust local bodies for doing their work."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I am sorry I have to take a different view from my hon. Friend Mr. Krishna Rao. All my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian said was that the Government themselves should set apart out of the grant asked for in this demand a portion for sinking wells for the depressed classes. That object can be obtained by getting this portion transferred to the Labour Commissioner so that he may utilize it for the purpose of sinking wells for the depressed classes. Even the Local Self-Government Department may earmark a portion of the grant which they make to local bodies for digging wells for the depressed classes. Either method is quite possible. The Government are earmarking certain grants for certain definite purposes and I do not see why the Government should not also earmark a portion of their grant for digging wells for the depressed classes. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishna Rao charged Mr. Veerian saying that he distrusted the local bodies. I believe that remark applies more to the Government than to Mr. Veerian, because it is the Government that entrusted this work, viz., digging of wells for the depressed classes, to the Commissioner of Labour and not that Mr. Veerian distrusted the local bodies."

* The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"I understand that provision has been made for sinking wells for Adi-Dravidas and that that amount will be placed at the disposal of the Labour Commissioner. If any further amount is required for digging wells for Adi-Dravidas the best thing would be to supplement that demand. But to go and cut short the allotment made for local bodies does not seem to be reasonable."

* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. It is true that a certain amount was handed over to the Labour Commissioner. But that amount is not only for sinking wells but also for sanitary improvements, construction of roads and various other things."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"That is not a personal explanation."

* The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"There is a further difficulty in earmarking a portion of the grant made to taluk boards. The taluk boards may sink half-a-dozen wells, and all communities may be using them. Now if you earmark a certain portion to dig some wells for the exclusive use of the Adi-Dravidas, they may not use reasonably other wells and in that case there may be difficulty. It is not proper to state that in a grant made to local bodies a certain portion should be earmarked for the purpose of sinking wells for the depressed classes. As a matter of fact this argument can be developed further and said that a certain portion should be earmarked for laying out roads, a certain portion for medical relief, and so on. So this kind of claim cannot be put forward on behalf of the depressed classes. Of course nobody disputes the claims of the depressed classes for some allotment, and they can well ask the Government for more grants. But let it not be said that the local bodies have been made to suffer for the sake of any particular class or community."

Mr. R. SRINIVASAN :—"The amounts allotted to the district boards for sinking wells are very poor. Otherwise it would not be necessary to ask the Government to earmark a portion for sinking wells for the depressed classes."

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* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ I have nothing more to say. I have said enough and I shall only resume my seat.”

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I have nothing more to say except to mention that my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition made a mistake when he was pointing out that a portion of this demand could be handed over to the Labour Commissioner as if it was too much. His criticism amounts to treating this demand as too much. If that is the case, I have no objection to withdraw the demand.

‘ There is another point to be considered and that is that all these water-supply schemes are intended for all classes of people. There is no meaning in saying that certain wells are intended solely for particular classes of people. These are all public wells and as such they can be made use of by all classes of people. So there is no force in the argument that a certain sum ought to be used exclusively for digging wells for the benefit of the depressed classes.”

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ The claims of the depressed classes can be approached from two different points of view. One is the legal point of view. I would draw the attention of the hon. House to the definition of the word ‘ public ’ in the Madras General Clauses Act. There the definition says that the word ‘ public ’ includes all classes of people without any distinction of race or religion or caste. If money is spent on public roads or wells, they become public property. The only thing that is required is to enforce the penal provisions of the Indian Penal Code if a person is restrained from using that public property. I would have no hesitation in enforcing the law.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ You are going to legal points. I think we have had enough of discussion and we shall proceed to vote.”

The amendment was put to vote and declared lost.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ In the absence of Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo, I beg to move his amendment which runs as follows :—

‘ To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6.25 lakhs by Rs. 100 ’

“ I move this amendment in order to ascertain the principle on which these are to be distributed or if distributed the allotment for each district.

11-30 a.m. “ It seems to me that the allotment made in this grant, namely, Rs. 6.25 lakhs, is hardly adequate to meet the real demand, but anyhow we must be thankful to the Government for even these small mercies. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is a general outcry among the rural population owing to inadequate supply of water all round so much so that whenever we get into the interior of some village in the rural parts we are confronted with this question—How is it that while you people living in the urban areas are being accorded special treatment, so far as we are concerned the Government ignore our existence altogether and they accord to us only step-motherly treatment? It is equally clear that epidemics are breaking out in these rural areas and do a lot of havoc and even prolong their duration owing to bad water, bad sanitation and bad surroundings. Not that these urban areas are absolutely immune from these epidemics, but while in the urban areas the epidemics are sought to be rooted out by the adoption of timely remedies, so far as the rural areas are concerned, for want of facilities and for want of adequate supply of water the toll of mortality demanded seems to be frightfully large, and I ask the

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Government to take steps in regard to this matter and devise ways and means by which the death-rate in those parts could be minimized as far as possible. I do not think that within this allotted demand, namely, Rs. 6.25 lakhs, it will be possible for the Government to make much headway. On turning to the memorandum over the signature of the Secretary, I find this: 'The grant will be ordinarily equal to the amount provided by the local boards and will be spent on the post-payment system.' I do not see why such policy should underlie this grant. It is well known that local boards have got very slender resources, and their financial condition will not permit them out of their small receipts to embark upon schemes of this character. To make my meaning quite clear, I wish to lay before the Council a typical instance of one board, namely, the Tindivanam Taluk Board, which comprises over 600 villages. Over 100 villages out of them have got good water-supply, and the other 500 villages have not got wells and are thereby subjected to very many ailments. I think in the pre-war time the sinking of one well cost about Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. But now I am led to think that the cost is about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. In the very nature of things, it will be impossible to expect that board to provide wells at the rate of one for each of all these villages. If every village asks for a well, it will really be impossible for that board to meet the demand unless it is in a position to float a loan in the open market, which I am sure, having regard to its slender resources, it is not possible for the board to do. But it seems to me, having regard to the limitations and the smallness of the amount, it will at least take a decade before we can think of providing wells for all these villages. And in this state of things I would request the hon. the Chief Minister to see his way if he cannot at least put up a strenuous fight and have this amount doubled. But at any rate, I just want to know from him the principles on which these amounts are to be distributed. It is true that he said some time ago that these grants will be made to the local bodies in whom will be vested a certain amount of discretion as regards the location and other conditions subject to which these schemes are to be worked out. I may also ask him to take us a little more into his confidence and tell us exactly the principles on which these sums are distributed and also, if it is not inconvenient, to tell us the amounts that are likely to be allotted to each district."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" If the motion is made with the object of asking that this distribution should be made upon any principle and if the hon. Member from Cuddalore wanted any principle to be enunciated, I should say I oppose this motion. I do not want any principle to be observed in this matter. I do not want any policy to be adopted in this matter. (Cries of 'No, no'). Please wait and hear me to the end. Whatever the money is, let it be small or big, wherever it is given, either in this district or that district, I want the money to be given at once. Every pie spent to-day means any amount of money that may be spent to-morrow. In my own district I toured in about six taluks recently, most of them being very much affected, and I take it that the conditions in other districts are more or less the same. Wherever we go, the cry is 'want of water' ('Hear, hear'). People do not very much even care for food now, but they want water because that is the first essential that they want. In many villages that I saw the chucklers have left the places and most of the Adi-Dravidas are leaving the places; and several Goundans who form a large portion of the population of our district are contemplating to leave to distant parts, because they have absolutely no water to drink, and even places where the wells were full

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of water at one time have no water now. It is not a question of grains to the people, it is not a question of straw for their cattle, but it is primarily a question of some water to drink. The ryots themselves have to pay so much for water—I say it advisedly, for in several villages I have seen pots of water being purchased by the villagers at the rate of six pies and one anna per pot. Therefore to wait for principles to be enunciated and discussed in the Council or Cabinet or anywhere else means delay, and unless every pie of this grant is given to somebody at once or to some places, there is absolutely no use in making the grant. It does not matter in what district it is spent, because every district wants money, and the Government, as it is, cannot meet the full demands of every district. So, if they can give, let them give it at once. I am against the so-called principles enunciated in the Secretary's note, that the Government would give half the money to such taluk boards or municipalities that first serve themselves. Take one typical instance, the taluk board of Erode. For three or four years estimates are being prepared by them for relief of water-scarcity, in the expectation of getting some money. But they were recently told that no money would be given to them. They have therefore cancelled all their estimates and they have no money allotted even this year. And the result is that it is not possible to get any money for deepening existing wells or sinking new wells, at least till the end of March next. Again, it may be a good idea on paper that the Government undertake the liability for payment of half the amount after completion of work, but where are the boards to go for the whole money to be found now, when they are unable to find even half the money? Therefore there is no use of having on paper a large grant of Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 60 lakhs or Rs. 6 crores even, when the municipalities or the district boards or taluk boards are not able to spare any additional money for the purpose of providing drinking water. They will not be able to find even half of the amount and much less the whole amount. They want money now. Therefore I want no principle to be applied. Even the so-called principle on paper should be obliterated. Let them divide the money now available among the various boards. Let the boards by all means spend their money; if they are able to contribute well and good, but let the Government spend all the money allotted and spend it somewhere. There is absolutely no time for even new wells being sunk. So far as Coimbatore is concerned—I think it is the case with other districts also—the deepening of existing wells is absolutely necessary. Wells which were considered to be very deep and were full of water last year or in the previous years are now devoid of water, so that if the boards will spend money in deepening them, the people can have some drinking water. There are many drinking water wells that are dried up and garden wells are also dried up. When caste Hindus thus find it difficult to get water, unfortunately the depressed classes have no water at all. That is why the Chucklers and Adi-Dravidas, a large number of them, are running from place to place for want of even some potfuls of drinking water. Therefore I appeal once more to the Government and the Minister not to wait for the enunciation of policies and principles nor vouchers and auditors (Laughter), but to see that the money is spent at once. One day's delay means a large number of lives not only of cattle but of men. In fact, I have tried to ascertain whether people died actually of starvation, and so far as I was able to see, there was only one case of actual starvation. I made a report of the fact to the Collector. But still more people are likely to die on account of starvation, starvation for want of water rather than for want of grain. So let us know before the next meeting how much money has been

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given for water-supply to the taluk boards and district boards; that is one item. Another item is that we should actually see to it that the money is actually spent, so that at least some drops of water are made available to the people. I am therefore strongly against the enunciation of policies or principles or any discussions or schemes on paper. The Government should spend money at once and let us know before the October sitting how much money was spent, how many wells have been deepened, and how many new wells have been sunk to increase the water-supply. So, I oppose this motion because I do not want policy or principles or discussions but I want money to be given and utilized for the purpose at once."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I am extremely sorry that I have been misunderstood by my hon. Friend "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I apologise to him if I have misunderstood him but I have made my position clear."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I felt and said that as it is, the water-supply is very inadequate, and I wanted to know the principles on which these monies are distributed so as to enable us to attack the principles first."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" We do not want any principle at all, apart from attacking any."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I am unable to understand what my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar is driving at. He refers to the difficulties especially of the depressed classes in getting water. When I began to talk last time, I was about to go into this very point, that though the depressed classes are entitled to water legally, they find it very difficult to get their rights and would have to spend much money to enforce the law. I was going to speak about this legal aspect, when I was stopped by the hon. the Deputy President. I therefore think it necessary that some principles should be laid down for relieving the distress among a particular class of people, the depressed classes, who are deprived of the use of water from wells. I have known cases where depressed classes including convert depressed classes are not allowed the use of a well where even cattle and dogs and other animals can drink. Therefore what I want to insist upon is that a principle should be laid when the law is so difficult to be enforced, that the depressed classes and the poorer classes should have a certain percentage set apart for their exclusive use. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore has referred specially to the depressed and poorer classes. It is necessary to provide them with water, so that they may not run away from the villages; they are a very important and useful class, and their labour is essential for cultivation. I would therefore request the hon. the Minister to lay down a principle that a certain proportion of this money should be set apart in proportion to the percentage of the depressed classes to the population. I know there is a good deal of lip sympathy for the poor classes (Laughter) especially from Rajas, Ministers and other higher classes, but that sympathy is not carried into practice. When it comes to a test of sincerity of this sympathy for the depressed classes, this principle is set at naught, and these poorer classes get nothing. We know that dogs and cattle are treated more kindly and humanely than are these poor classes. I would therefore appeal to this House that it should fix a certain percentage for these classes. I do not know how this last motion was carried, and when I arrived just at the time when it was being put, I did not know whether I should say 'Yes' or 'No.' I was also prevented

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from talking on a principle of law by the Deputy President. He said that I was speaking on a law point. Anyhow, as I said, there are the principles which are to be determined on which these grants should be made.

11-45 a.m. "These are occasions when we can have a complete discussion on the general principles and policies to be followed in making these grants. Now, it has been said that some of the hon. Members are anxious to go home. Let them go home. Let those who want to fight here for those principles be allowed to go on with their say and not be stopped even without a motion for closure as the Deputy President stopped me when I wanted to speak. (Cries of 'Order, order'). Therefore, I would appeal to the House to have patience to consider the point raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian, so that we might give more attention to it. I want that a principle is necessary to be laid down for allocating a portion of this grant for the benefit of a class who are treated worse than animals in the matter of water-supply."

* Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Regarding the point raised by the hon. Member who has just spoken, I may point out that the question of allotting a certain portion of the grant for the depressed classes was the subject matter of a separate amendment moved by the hon. Member Mr. Veerian, on which a vote was taken, and was decided by this House. I do not think it is necessary, even if the present motion is for discussing the principles relating to the distribution of the grant, that we should review the same question already discussed."

"Coming to the present motion, I wish to point out two or three difficulties which ought to be solved by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in consultation with the local bodies. Firstly, I do not wish to take the Financial Relations Committee as my authority for settling this problem. As has been already pointed out while making this grant, it was the Financial Relations Committee that threw some obstacles in the continuance of the old minor sanitary grants. Minor sanitary grants, generally to the extent of Rs. 6 lakhs annually, were distributed through the various district boards in the Presidency on different principles. They were distributed according to the needs of each district and the condition of the boards which were not in a position to sink wells and improve the water-supply to any considerable extent. But the circumstances attending this grant are peculiar. In the first place it is said that the local boards concerned must provide half the amount, and that the Government is going to pay as much as the local board is likely to spend. I can understand the possibilities of such a procedure being followed in the case of local boards which have a surplus balance and which can provide for the construction of wells. But an examination of the budgets of the local boards will show that some local boards which are working with a deficit balance are actually going to the Government for compassionate grants but are only advised to cut down their expenditure or increase the tax. In the case of these local boards, is it just that those principles that they should provide half the amount should be insisted on? I should again point out that some local boards which included in their budget some provision for sanitary objects were asked to delete them from the normal budgets. When they cannot afford even so much and are asked to cut down expenditure, to say that unless they find half the money necessary for this purpose of water-supply they cannot be given any relief, is, I think, a very unfair principle to enforce in view of the circumstances

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of the local boards. That is my second point, namely, that most of the local boards will find it a great hardship if that principle of finding half the money is insisted on. The third point I wish to place is this. It is but necessary for the satisfactory distribution of works of public utility in the various local areas to know whether this amount is likely to be repeated or continued. Because, if you really wish that the local boards shall have a correct programme of works spread over at least two or three years, and that these works should be carried out completely, it is but fair that they should be given some assurance of the grant being continued, I do not say for all time, but for a few years. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for them to come out with a programme of works. So far as the time within which the grant should be expended is concerned, you cannot take up the works during the rainy season, and if you begin them some time in January or February, you will find it difficult to complete them before the end of March. Therefore, I will suggest that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, who I am glad has come forward with this demand which is a modification of the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee, would do well to say or give some sort of assurance that the grants are likely to be repeated. I know the difficulties of the Government in making a commitment. But it is necessary in order to enable the local boards to have a programme of works prepared and to carry out the works in a satisfactory manner.

"The fourth point I wish to suggest is this: it must also be made possible for the amount not spent during the current year being carried over to the accounts of the local board for the next year. Otherwise, it would be a hardship and the object of this grant will not be satisfactorily carried out. If you want them to hurry through expenditure for the purpose of earning the grant, I think it would affect efficiency; it must affect efficiency. If you want them to carry out the works satisfactorily, you should give them time for the plans being prepared and for seeing that no mistakes are made in the construction of the works, as was the case some time ago. It is but necessary to see that the works for which the grant is made are in progress. But if you say that the whole grant should be spent this year only, I think we may not have the satisfaction of having the work carried satisfactorily to its completion. Therefore, I would suggest that the hon. the Minister should see his way not to stop the grant for works already started and which cannot be completed within the year but to assure us that the amount required for works already undertaken could be carried over to the next year. Unless these difficulties in the way of the local boards are removed, it will not be possible for them to carry out the works satisfactorily."

* Mr. N. DEVENDRUDU :—“నీళ్లు సప్లయ విషయంలో యెమెండుమెంటు ఉప పాదించబడినది. చీపు మినిస్టరుగారిచే తేబడిన డిమాండు రూ 6,25,000 లో, యెక్కువగా నీళ్లలేక యిబ్బందిపడువారు డిప్రెస్డ్ క్లాసు ప్రజలుగాన, యీ రాజధానిలోయందు డిప్రెస్డ్ క్లాసువారలకు ముందుగా సప్లయ చేయటకు యెర్పాటు చేయవలయును అని నా అభిప్రాయము. గంజాము జిల్లాలోయన్న ఆటయోంధ్రులు నీళ్లలేక నూతులు విషయము గంజాము జిల్లా లోర్డు వారికి మనవిచేయగా వారు సొమ్ములేదు శ్రీ గవర్న మెంటువారు సొమ్ము సప్లయ చేసినయెడల చేయించగలము అని వ్రాసినారు. విశాఖపట్నం, గోదావరి, కృష్ణా, వేణు గోదావరి జిల్లాలలో మెరక ప్రాంతములు ఆసగా ఫారమ్మలందు ప్రాంతములలో నీళ్లకు అదియోం

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ధను చాలా చిక్కులు పడుచున్నామన జిల్లా బోర్డులవల్లను, రాలాకా బోర్డులవల్లను తగ్గ దుర్వాస్థు చేయించి వారలకు నీళ్లు పక్కయి నలక చేసేదని తలంచుచు యంతటితో విమిషించున్నాను."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, there is a Urdu proverb which says that there should be absolutely no delay in the execution of a good work. It has been agreed on all sides of the House that the sinking of wells is an absolute necessity, and I should only say that as far as possible no delay is allowed to occur in the execution of this good work. In saying so, I wish to press that the enunciation of any principle or the expectation from the local bodies of any contribution, or even the postponement of the payment for the works in these cases will only create delay and will not at all contribute to the speedy execution of the objection which is in the view of the Government. I therefore urge that in the best interests of the people for whose benefit it is meant the Government should see its way to an immediate distribution of all the funds available to the local bodies and order all these local bodies to carry out the works before the close of this year. My only request is that the local bodies may not be pressed to lay out the cost themselves and be paid their contributions only after the work is done but that the local bodies are paid in advance so that they may take up the work and carry them out before the end of the year. With these few words, I request the Government to distribute the funds without any the least delay."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Mr. President, Sir, when this bill was forwarded to you by my hon. Friend Mr. Bishwanath Das I understood him to mean that he wanted to ascertain the principle on which this grant is to be distributed and to know exactly from the hon. the Chief Minister on what conditions this grant is being made. That point has in some measure been exhaustively dealt with by my hon. Friend from Nellore. We just want to know whether these are out and out grants to local bodies to be spent for the purpose for which this demand is made, or whether they would be called upon to contribute a moiety of the sum that is to be granted to them. If the latter, I think it would be impossible for any local board to come forward at this part of the year with any special fund at their command. Their budgets are already made up and possibly much of the little sum at their disposal has already been spent, and therefore it will not be possible for the local bodies to contribute any portion of the expenditure towards this grant. At the time of the budget, when we were expressing our hope that we might get a windfall this year and that most of it must go to the transferred subjects, it was the expectation of the hon. Members of this House as well as the large outside public that if any money should be available for these purposes it would be ungrudgingly and unhesitatingly given of course to give relief to the villagers especially in respect of water-supply and rural sanitation. Now it is really a matter for congratulation that such a large sum is asked for by the hon. the Chief Minister, and the real purpose will not be served if any conditions are imposed on the utilization of this fund. Therefore, I request that the hon. the Minister will be pleased to say whether the grant will be distributed according to the needs in the different areas, whether the local bodies will be called upon to make any necessary contribution, and also whether this grant will be allowed to be taken over to the next year, as has been pointed out by my hon. Friend from Nellore. It is possible that there may be some delay in the matter of carrying out these works. Not only during the rainy season but

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even in the months of January, February or March these wells cannot be sunk. They could be sunk only during the hot weather. So it will be necessary to carry over the expenditure to the next year. Unless these things are agreed upon, there is no use of going on with this grant; it will be only on paper and will not be available for utilization in the respective areas."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The hon. the Mover of the amendment asks us to enunciate the principles involved in the distribution of this grant. I have already said that the main principles involved in the distribution are that the local bodies to which the grants will be made will have to contribute equal amounts and the grants will be made under the post-payment system. These principles have been referred to in the note circulated to the hon. Members. Some hon. Members complain that the grant is inadequate. I agree with them. I have only to say that in the present circumstances we could not ask for more for this purpose."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether the Government expects to spend the whole sum this year?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Yes. Then, the hon. Member from Cumbalore said that the grant should be made immediately."

"There is no objection to the grant being made immediately under the post-payment system which is considered to be the best system. In fact the Finance and Budget Committee discussed this matter and recommended that these grants should be paid only after the works were completed. The local bodies can get the money from the general funds and when the works are completed they can draw money from the Government. The hon. Member from Nellore said that it would be hard upon the local bodies to expect them to pay a large part of the cost of these schemes. It is true that some local bodies are not in a position to pay this amount. I have already stated that so far as local bodies are concerned, if it is found that it is beyond their means after they have made every attempt upon them to find funds, the Government will consider such cases. In fact, Sir, a large number of applications fulfilling the terms proposed by the Government has been received to the extent of Rs 10,50,000. These applications have been received from as many as 19 district boards; there are still six boards. It is expected that the balance would be utilized for the schemes which have to be taken on hand."

"My hon. Friend again has opened the question of some funds being earmarked for the depressed classes. As I have already pointed out, such a course is impossible because unless these local bodies are constituted as special departments, it will not be possible for the Government to entrust them with this special work. There is a separate department which is known as the Labour Department to look after the interests of the depressed classes."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know if the Labour Department has been given any money for water-supply?"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"They have been given. If the amount given is not sufficient, it is open to this hon. House to increase the amount."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I want to make a few remarks and then make up my mind whether I should withdraw the amendment or not. As I proceed I should like to see how my remarks are received and on that will depend my decision. The hon. the Chief Minister laid before us two

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principles which underlie this scheme. He stated that the Government are disposed to place grants at the disposal of taluk boards which are able to contribute an equal amount. That is point No. 1. The other point is that payment will be on the post-payment system. I fear that if these conditions are strictly insisted upon, it seems to me that taluk boards will find it really difficult to complete the works and earn the money within the current year. I fear that this system may land us in lapses which are not quite desirable; if you insist upon these conditions you will be bringing pressure on the local boards to complete the works even at the sacrifice of our getting the money's worth. Considered from that point of view the system is open to serious objections. As for the hon. the Minister's promise that with regard to certain local bodies whose balances are miserably poor or which are working with very huge deficits, each individual case will be dealt with separately, that commands my approval; and I hope and trust that he will see his way to include within the range of his sympathy as many local bodies as possible. In view of the fact that I notice recognition of the sentiments I have given expression to, I do not think I will be well advised to press my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"May I know if the hon. Member (Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan) is going to speak on a different subject or the same?"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I have to speak on a different subject. Sir, my motion is a token motion and I appeal to the hon. the Minister to provide more wells for so many depressed areas in the municipal areas of Tellicherry, Cannanore and Calicut."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"May I point out that the principle involved in this motion is the same as that involved in the previous motion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will have to show that his motion is different from that which has already been rejected."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"With regard to the water-supply in municipal areas in Malabar"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, may I submit that 'water-supply' in the municipal areas is not the subject matter now under discussion?"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I would earnestly beg the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to give additional grants to the district and taluk boards in Malabar. In answer to a question put on 6th December 1924 the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government said that he was prepared to give an equal amount of that raised by the taluk boards. I am afraid that this scheme will not be favourable to the local bodies in Malabar. It will be very difficult for the local boards in Malabar—I speak of Malabar because I know that all the local boards have closed with deficit balances—to pay an equal share of the cost of works. They will not be in a position to spend a pie and therefore they will have to lose the grant that is to be distributed by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. Now I do not wish to move the motion."

The demand for Rs. 6.25 lakhs was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

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* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I beg to move

‘ That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 7,500 under “ 33-b. Public Health—Grants for Public Health Purposes—Grants and Contributions ” to provide for the Nilgiris District Board to meet the expenditure incurred by it in connexion with the campaign against relapsing fever ’.

“ Mr. President, Sir, about July 1923, relapsing fever of a virulent type broke out in an epidemic form in Ootacamund and spread into the interior of the district. The authorities concerned thought that if the epidemic was not checked in time, it would be a serious menace to the public health of the district; and the district board under the guidance of the District Medical Officer carried on an intensive campaign to check the disease. The disease however could not be brought under control during the year and the campaign had to be continued. The board however was too poor to meet the cost of the campaign and applied to the Government for aid. It was feared that, if the disease was not checked, it would be a source of infection to the country around particularly on account of the geographical position of the district and of the peculiar climatic condition of the place. The Government felt that they ought to help the board and promised to give a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,500; they also placed a health officer at the disposal of the board to conduct the campaign. This amount could not however be paid as there was no provision in the budget of 1924-25. The question was placed before the Finance Committee and that committee recommended the grant. A motion was made at the last meeting of the Council and the hon. Members wanted to have information on the subject. Now a note has been circulated and I hope the House will pass the demand ”.

The grant was put to the House and carried.

Grant XX.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGANAYAM PILLAI :—“ I beg to move

‘ that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 40,200 under “ Agriculture—Transferred ” (Major Head 34-a. Agriculture—Agriculture i.e. Livestock ’.

“ This grant is applied for for two specific purposes. One is the improvement of cattle breeding in the Hosur farm and the other is the installation of a dairy plant. As regards the first object, it will be within the recollection of the House that the Hosur farm which was formerly under the management of the Government of India has been taken over by us. It consists of 1,500 acres of land and a number of buildings suitable for our purposes. The farm can accommodate about 1,000 head of cattle; but at present there are only 300 cattle. In order to make full use of the natural advantages of this farm, taking advantage of the remission of the provincial contribution it is proposed to provide Rs. 12,250 for the purchase of additional cattle and a sufficient sum for their maintenance. Provision has also been made for increased establishment which the existing farm naturally needs and also for the upkeep of the buildings in a proper state of repairs. The second object is to have a dairy plant. Hon. Members would have noticed that recently His Excellency the Viceroy has foreshadowed expansion in agricultural matters and the improvement of cattle-breeding. He has also stated that these matters are within the sphere of Provincial Governments.

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"Before committing ourselves to this large outlay of Rs. 17,390 which it is proposed to spend for the dairy, I think it will be as well to wait and see as to what exactly the intentions of the Central Government are. I may state for the information of the members that I propose to visit Hosur early and have a consultation with the Imperial Dairy Specialist. So I will not press for the allotment of Rs. 17,390. I only request that the House will be pleased to allot Rs. 22,810 for the improvement of cattle-breeding at the Hosur farm."

The House then proceeded on the amended demand for Rs. 22,810.

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHEMIAVAR : "Mr. President Sir, in the absence of Mr. V. C. Vellirigiri Gounder, I beg to move the amendment which stands in his name."

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,200 by Rs. 100.'

"I am glad to say, Sir, that the hon. the Development Minister has been consistent. He told us when he came the other day for a grant of Rs. 4,000 and odd some months back that more was to follow and he has kept his word. I am also, I beg to submit, consistent. I said when we were granting the Rs. 4,000 we were seeing only the extra thin end of the wedge and that more was to follow. And this is the first instalment of what was to follow. Before asking for the finances of the Government to be embarked on this venture I should like that the hon. the Minister should give us some idea of the work that has a ready bearing on the direction to justify the present demand. Although this is not a very large amount, it must be remembered that this is but a very small instalment of what is going to come hereafter. Sir, there have been 300 heads of cattle recently brought into this farm. The hon. Member Mr. Krishna Rao will remember money to the loss of the Chintaldevi farm which was on the brink of disestablishment, if I may use that expression, but probably the Government came to the rescue and prevented its being closed down. There were any number of cattle in the Coimbatore agricultural farm, cattle of all kinds both Indian and outlandish. I would ask 'what have you done to improve cattle-breeding?' what new breeds have you made available to the ryot? 'what success attended your effort at importing the foreign breed and in the way of their acclimatisation?' Have you produced one new breed of milk cow which will compare either with the Nellore breed or Guzerat breed or Sindhi breed. The history of the Hosur farm cannot be forgotten so soon. It was like cutting the head to suit the cap. There were 1,700 and odd acres offered by the Indian Government because the horse-breeding station which was located at Mattigudi was closed and therefore it was 'to let'. They found the hon. the Minister easiest to manage and therefore they hit upon him, saying 'here is land, take it'. Also there was a highly-paid staff and they must find employment for them. If the Hosur breed are inferior, I can understand this enterprise. But the Hosur cattle are some of the finest in Southern India. As regards butter-making, 'beware of butter,' of Government butter as my friend here suggests, because I have carefully studied the matter and I know butter-making cannot pay in Southern India. I have gone into the question as a Member of the Committee on Co-operation in Mysore and all the available materials, including the knowledge of Mr. Davis—a costly expert; we submitted these materials to a severe examination and my colleagues on the Committee hailed from Bombay, Guzerat and Southern India. Mr. Davis gave it as his opinion that butter-making cannot pay in Southern India. If butter cannot be made at Bangalore it follows also that Hosur, 25 miles from Bangalore, is not favourable

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for butter-making. What is your experience of the small butter-making plant in the Coimbatore Agricultural College, with up-to-date ice-making and other plant? You are, even at Re 1 8-0 a lb. selling butter at much below cost. With that experience before us and knowing also what endless chain of expenditure that will involve—these costly experts, costly machinery, their renewal every third year—would you embark on this venture? The thicker end of the wedge is one which is very hard to contemplate. We may be told that the produce of this Hosur farm is going to be hygienic. The word 'hygienic' instils a bit of terror into the Madras public. You have spent lakhs on the Hygienic Milk Supply Company in Madras. After this bitter experience, I doubt whether the hon. the Minister will persist in carrying on this costly experiment. The burden on the taxpayer will be very heavy. At the end of a few years, the butter expert will be in his home enjoying his cigarette and saying that the Indian niggers do not know how to run the business. I have again to sound this note of warning, and ask the Hon. not to embark on things which are not likely to repay the trouble and cost expended on them. We cannot be led by the views of a few highly paid experts. We have the Russellkonda expert, the fruit-making expert and other experts. How many experts the poor ryots have to pay for? I repeat this note of warning which I sounded at the last meeting and request the Hon. not to make this grant."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMA AYYANGAR. — "I just want to say a few words more with the object of giving information and if possible to request the hon. the Minister to postpone consideration of the subject. We are told, Sir, that though the Hosur farm is a very costly business, it was chiefly intended for improving the Kangayam breed of cattle. I want to know if there are not sufficient numbers of Kangayam cattle in this Presidency or are they not likely to be purchased in the scheme that has been proposed by the hon. the Minister for the purposes of a dairy? I want to know that, because it is stated that this milk-supply is begun with the purchase of 25 Ongole cows and 12 Sindh cows. What has become of the Kangayam breed of cows and why were not Kangayam cows purchased for the purpose?"

"My second point is this: whether the hon. the Minister has gone into the Hygienic Milk Supply Company business that has been referred to by Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar. I had the fortune or the misfortune to have some knowledge of that company, and I had also visited it. It was run practically on the lines suggested now. There were plenty of Ongole cattle; there were also a number of Sindh cows. A motor-car was purchased to take the milk to Madras which was only 25 miles off, and it was found that the unfortunate shareholders had to suffer great losses. It is stated in the proceedings of the Finance Committee that this will give a profit of about Rs. 6,000. Our mouths always water, knowing the deficits of the Madras Government, whenever we are told that this particular scheme will be profitable, or that scheme will be profitable. That is why we are willing to sanction some of these schemes. From the details placed before us, I am surprised at the economical way in which the whole thing is expected to be managed; 'Maintenance of livestock—Rs. 3,900; Rs. 300 a month for 35 cows.' I keep some cows and I shall be very glad to know if a cow costs less than Rs. 9 especially a Sindh cow or an Ongole cow. I have no experience of these cows; perhaps they may eat less fodder and give more milk. I should very much like to know the expert way of a cow being maintained on Rs. 9 a month. Then, Sir, this particular department is very frugal in its establishment,

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manager, accountant, supervisor, etc., as all cost only Rs. 800 a month. I want to know how that was arrived at and whether it was based on any incremental system, because the recurring expenses amount to Rs. 9,900, and the establishment costs to only Rs. 800 a month. And what is more, as one who has been keeping a motor-car, I want to know whether a Ford van can be had for Rs. 2,000. Probably they are having a second-hand van, and we have had plenty of experience in that direction. Now we know how things are purchased in the Industrial department and thrown out, and how people are sent to America or Europe to learn the work of driving these things. I want to know whether this van is a new van and whether it can be had for Rs. 2,000. If it is not, then are the repairing charges, etc., included in the Rs. 800. I am yet to learn how the figure 800 a year was arrived at. Rupees 65 a month means about Rs. 2 a day, i.e., two rupees a day for a Ford car to run between Bangalore and Madras and this includes the driver's pay. I do not know what the pay of the blessed driver is. He must be a very curious man: I am only saying all this to show that this is only a paper estimate. It is only a blind estimate that has been given. So that when one scrutinizes these things, and looks at the real correct cost, the profit of Rs. 6,000 will immediately vanish. I would only appeal to the hon. the Minister and to the Secretary of the department to look into the matter very carefully. If really this is a very good thing and if in respect to the extent of the area available at Hosur that has led them to have the dairy there, why not have some dairy close to Madras? I do not think it can be said that there is no place available in or near Madras which can be developed.

“Therefore I appeal to the hon. the Minister and the Secretary to postpone this matter if the information available is not satisfactory to both of them. We have been fiddling under the sun when villages and parishes are starving and the hon. the Minister says we will wait until more money is available. The Europeans and Indians who have been getting on without this dairy farm for the last so many years, can wait for some time more.”

“Sir, in this connexion I wish to know whether the present Deputy Director of Agriculture (Livestock) has got any special knowledge so far as this dairy farm is concerned and whether he will get any additional allowance for managing this dairy.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU —“Sir, we are surprised that when water is denied to us, milk and butter are ready at our hands. We would rather have preferred to grant more funds for the purpose of providing good water and for improving rural sanitation than that our mouths should be watered at the prospect of having some butter and a good deal of milk and that at first hand. At the sag-end of the session I do not want to take up the time of the House. As for what my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has said, I echo every word of his. For these reasons I would earnestly request that this grant may be postponed to a future date.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“Sir, I am very sorry to find that my hon. Friends Messrs. Adinarayana Chettiyar and Venkataramana Ayyangar have sorely missed the point. The original application was for an allotment of Rs. 40,000. This sum, as I said, is divided into two items, one for the improvement of cattle and the other for the model dairy farm. Most of the remarks made by my hon. Friends apply to the model dairy farm and, as I said, I am not going to bring it before the House

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just now for reasons which I have already given. I would bring it before the House at a later stage. In the meantime I would be in a position to know the wishes of the Government of India as to on what lines they are going to establish a relationship between the Provincial and Imperial administrations. If I leave that point aside for discussion at a later stage when more materials would be available, then there is not much to be said on the other points raised by my hon. Friends. They asked me to tell them what the past working has shown. The farm was started only very recently. The Kangayam animals, . . .

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: "I do not know if my hon. Friend includes me also. I did not say a word about the desirability of breeding Kangayam animals."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The Kangayam animals were brought in only very recently and it ought to be perfectly well known to my hon. Friends that within such a short time it will not be possible to show anything startling."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"It is true that its existence at Mathigiri was probably very short, but they had existed in another place for about 20 or 30 years."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I wish my hon. Friend had referred to some published documents. Then I would have been in a position to refute his argument. Mathigiri was originally a horse-breeding station."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I have been misunderstood by the hon. the Minister. What I said was that in the matter of cattle breeding the department has not shown any special interest."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI: "This farm consists of 1,500 acres and, as I said, is capable of grazing about 1,000 head of cattle. As we have only 300 head of cattle . . ."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know if this area has become the property of this Government now?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"That is another point on which I have not got the information just now. It is still under correspondence with the Government of India."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. I put that question because the hon. the Minister said that we have got 1,500 acres in that place. Therefore I wanted to know whether it has become the property of this Government or whether it is likely to be refused to us."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The farm has already been placed at our disposal, but the correspondence as to what amount of money we have to pay for it and so on is still going on. A small committee has been appointed to go into the question. There is one member on the Committee on behalf of the Madras Government, another on behalf of the Imperial Government, and a third man to act as arbitrator between the two. It has long been the complaint that in India the Government in the Agricultural Department has not been putting forth any energy to improve the agricultural industry of the people. It is for that very reason that we have been trying to do our level best to bring up the agricultural industry to a

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very high standard. As we have now got facilities in the matter of pasturage and sufficient water convenience it is highly necessary that we should take advantage of that fact and start the improvement of cattle breeding.

"Now, I wish to refer to the three or four slight inaccuracies, whether intentional or unintentional, in the remarks made by my hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar, but as they all referred to the subject of model dairy farm I shall not in any way allude to them."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—May I request the hon. Minister to tell me which part of my speech or statement consists of inaccuracies intentionally made, so that I may discharge his mind of it. I had no idea or intention of making an inaccurate statement."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"So, the only one point that is now before the House is the improvement of the cattle-breeding farm estimated to cost Rs. 22,810."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, may I ask to be enlightened on the question I asked? Some intention was attributed to me. May I know on what point?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, may I suggest to the hon. the Minister that it would be impossible for us to follow his speech if he submits to these frequent interruptions? [It is interrupted.] I am not to give way unless a point of order is raised and discussed. It is impossible for us to follow the hon. the Minister's speech if at the end of a sentence he is interrupted."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"All that I require is an allotment of Rs. 22,810, and I request the House to allot that amount."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. the Minister has explained that what he wants at present is only Rs. 22,810. He is going to ask on some future occasion for an allotment for the model dairy farm."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May we know whether it is explained in the note?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"He has been explaining it all this time."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"It is not in the note."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understood from him that that is all he wants."

The demand as amended was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXII.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I move

that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 5,845 under 'Agriculture—Co-operative Credit—Transferred Head 34-C, Agriculture—Co-operative Credit—Assistant Registrars—Pay of Establishments—Voted.'

"Sir, in connexion with the co-operation reclamation societies that were started in the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly, it was found necessary to appoint two chief inspectors of co-operative societies, two supervisors of Public Works Department, and two peons for a certain period commencing from January 1925 and ending with May 1925. It has now been found by experience that this establishment should be continued up to the end of the

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current official year and therefore I have come forward with this demand. So far as the Tanjore district is concerned, it was thought that the work could be managed by the ordinary staff of the department. But, this arrangement could not be continued without serious detriment to the ordinary work of the department of the district. A reclamation society has been started and the work has to be pushed through vigorously. We therefore want for that district an inspector on Rs 40, a supervisor on Rs. 80 and two peons on Rs 12 each. A shorthand clerk for the Deputy Registrar is also asked for. The whole of this establishment will cost Rs 5,845 up to the end of the current year. I request the House to be pleased to allot this amount."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I rather think that Mr. Gopalan's amendment has very little to do with this grant. This grant is for Tanjore and Trichinopoly. Is the hon. Member going to refuse the grant because something has not been done for Malabar?"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Sir, for the past several years we have been requesting the hon. the Minister for Development to give us an honorary assistant registrar. Every time he has been giving us hope, but at the same time saying that there are no duly qualified men. If he has the interest of the fishermen community on the West Coast at heart I would earnestly urge him not to delay and to give us an honorary assistant registrar for the reason which I will present now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It may be that he is urging this upon the attention of the hon. Minister for the first time or for the last time. But does he not think that this is not a proper occasion for that? What is wanted by the hon. the Minister is a grant for Tanjore and Trichinopoly. Is the hon. Member going to say because the hon. Minister has not done something for Malabar he would not vote this grant for Tanjore and Trichinopoly? Does he consider this a suitable opportunity for making a motion of that kind?"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Unfortunately just at the time of the discussion of the budget last year and year before last I had given notice of many amendments under this head, but none of them was reached (laughter). I wish to know from the hon. the Minister for Development whether he would now at least give us an honorary assistant registrar. If he has really the interest of the West Coast fisheries in his heart he would grant this request. He told me only the other day that because he would not get a suitable man he was unable to grant my request. But I may say, Sir, that I have been uniformly recommending to him a certain gentleman who is a President of a Co-operative Credit Society, the Secretary of a Co-operative Union, a Director of the District Bank, a Director of the District Federation, Vice-President of the Cannanore Urban Bank, the Honorary Secretary of the Cannanore Union and the Secretary of the Malabar District Conference held last year. I now take this opportunity to appeal to the good heart of the hon. the Minister for Development at least now to give us an honorary assistant registrar. Unless I get a promise from him to this effect I am going to press this motion, viz., to reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,845 by Rs. 100."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I would take this occasion to make another appeal to the hon. the Minister for Development not to appoint any more Honorary Assistant Registrars and to drop the scheme altogether."

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The Provincial Co-operative Conference held last December which was attended by representatives from the whole presidency almost unanimously passed a resolution against this system of appointing Honorary Assistant Registrars.

"Sir, the way in which they have been going on, namely, extending their official lives from day to day and from month to month and giving them hopes and then inviting applications, is practically demoralising the non-officials of the co-operative movement. This new demand for Honorary Assistant Registrars has been practically coaxed out of the unions, and many of these 'efficient' assistant registrars in the department have gone from union to union with their inspectors and told them 'you are going to get an honorary assistant registrar's place—it may be yourself or your brother, you have nothing to pay as it is free—will you have it?' Sir, such is the method followed in several districts, and it has been demoralising the non-officials for several years. I would appeal to my hon. friend not to proceed with this system which, as my friend Mr. Gopalan shows, will lead to all sorts of hopes, all sorts of expectations, and all sorts of disappointments. Sir, in the interests of the good name of the co-operative movement, it is not proper to allow the official existence of these people—I think there is yet time, it is not too late, being prolonged from day to day, week to week and from month to month. Therefore Sir, I risk this very good opportunity and appeal to the Member not to desert from appointing these Honorary Assistant Registrars."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Sir, with every desire to oblige my hon. Friend not to press, I find that unfortunately in the Malabar district, as in other districts, there are serious factions and my friend belongs to one faction and there is another faction which carries with it"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"On a point of order, Sir. If His Excellency the Governor of Madras gave me the unique honour of being nominated as a Member of this Council to represent the fishermen community of the West Coast, I do not think that the hon. the Minister for Development has any right to say that I belong to a faction in Malabar. The hon. the Minister may as well say that he is not prepared to accept such a nomination rather than say that I belong to a faction. I protest, Sir, very vehemently, against the expression of the hon. the Minister for Development. He has gone far beyond the expectations of His Excellency the Governor of Madras who, in nominating me as a Member, had in his heart of hearts the interests of the fishermen community of the West Coast, whether factions exist or not."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIAR:—"Sir, I would also protest against the hon. the Minister referring to factions and all that. It is not proper that an hon. Minister should lend his ears to gossip or tale-bearers and arrive at decisions. . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will the hon. Member kindly resume his seat? We have not had the whole of the Minister's sentence."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Probably, Sir, my use of the word 'faction' might have overreached what I meant to convey. I meant there are two schools of thought. I believe that will be a proper term. As I said when the matter was represented to me by my hon. Friend Mr. Gopalan, I looked into it and consulted the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; but he has told me that in the states in which the

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Malabar district is at present, it would be inadvisable to take either one from this side or one from that side as honorary assistant registrars. So, I am looking forward to the time when the two schools of thought can be brought to one view of thinking. Then I might select one from this and one from the other side, so that all possibilities of differences of opinion may vanish. That is the only point which I have to answer to my hon. Friend Mr. Gopalan. As regards my Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar, I do not think it is just now a fitting time to take that step; but as he is labouring under some delusion on that point—I beg your pardon—under some impression which is not correct I may say that as a result of a reference made by the Registrar to various societies, we found that out of 300 and odd unions, only 57 unions did not want an honorary assistant registrar and the others are seriously pressing upon me the necessity to make the appointments. That, I think, will satisfy my friend for the present."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"It cannot satisfy me because I would like to know how these applications have been received, were they voluntary or were they coerced out of unwilling unions?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does Mr. Gopalan press his amendment?"

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I want to say some words before I can consider the question of withdrawing my amendment. First and foremost, Sir, I have to submit . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There is no right of reply. The hon. Member had a right to propose an amendment and all that he has to say now is whether he will press his amendment or not. He cannot have the right of reply. He will kindly make his stand on the matter."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I withdraw my motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The original motion was then put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVII.

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move
that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 8,61,030 under
"Civ. Works—Transferred"—for grants for roads and bridges."

"Sir, so far as communications under the control of the local boards are concerned, at present grants are given only to the first and second class roads which, generally speaking, are respectively inter-provincial and inter-district roads. The other communications, i.e., roads other than first and second class roads, are constructed and maintained at the cost of the local boards. As the hon. Members are aware, the resources of almost all the local boards are slender, and the boards have not been able to do much by way of improving communications in rural areas. During the past few years local boards have not been able to spend much upon the construction or maintenance of village roads. It has been found that during the last some years, they have been able to spend only less than 9 per cent of their receipts from land cess. The absence of village communications has been very much felt by the rural population. Speaking on another demand—the grant for rural water-supply schemes—I told the hon. Members how necessary it is to improve the conditions of village life. What I said in connexion with that demand applies

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equally to this demand. The village roads are an absolute necessity, and it is proposed to grant Rs. 625,000 for the construction of village roads by local boards. Certain trunk roads which have suffered from the floods in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Tenavelly require to be repaired urgently. It is proposed that Rs. 34,000 and odd are to be allotted for this purpose. Certain incomplete works have to be completed, and a sum of Rs. 11,355 is required to undertake these works. It is proposed to give the Chingleput District Board Rs. 16,000 to improve the trunk road near Madras. Again, Sir, certain second-class roads in the South Kanara and Nilgiris districts have suffered from floods. It is proposed to give these boards a grant of Rs. 70,000. The balance of Rs. 99,000 and odd is intended to be given for the construction of certain bridges on second-class roads. The grant asked for will be met from the funds made available by the remission of the contribution to the Central Government."

MR. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, from this grant I propose a cut of Rs. 100 for the purpose stated therein, namely, to discuss the desirability of having a set of bridges over the three canals that separate the Tenali station from the Tenali town proper. Tenali is divided into two portions—the Tenali railway station with quarters and extensions thereon, and the original Tenali village with all its present extensions. Between these two run three canals, Sir, one for navigation purposes and the other two equally big canals for irrigation purposes. For these three canals, there is a set of bridges built long years ago when Tenali was but a small village. Now, in importance, Tenali is next to being the chief town of my district, Sir, and Tenali bids fair very soon to come into commercial importance and activity. The very fact, Sir, that from 1st September of this year 14 trains will be running up and down between Repalle and Centurba sils a number of trains that run on the main line—between Madras and Madras mail trains—shows the importance of Tenali town. The town is now like a big bottle with a large, big body and a small neck. It is only this set of bridges that leads entrance into the town at present, and most curiously, by some aesthetic taste perhaps, the Department of Public Works authorities constructed pathways some years ago and have also planted small stones between the pathway and the main road on the bridge so much so that strangers that come into town at nights are liable to stumble against these stones, which are not only ugly but also dangerous. On these bridges there were a number of accidents recently, and I only hope that the hon. the Minister will take this into consideration when the question comes before the Government; so that he might give us grants for the bridges also. Some time ago, just before the war, this question was prominently brought before the Government and even when His Excellency visited my place, this was one of the requests made to His Excellency, and the Government promised that they would go into the matter, and in fact they gave us a grant of Rs. 40,000 for the construction of a new set of bridges. As the grant was made late in the year and as the place where the new set of bridges were to be located could not easily be settled, we had to allow the Rs. 40,000 grant to lapse. After the war, things enormously changed and though our plans and estimates were made ready by then, the Government returned our papers saying there were no funds. Now that certain funds have been liberated, I hope and trust that in the interests of not only the Tenali municipality but also in the interests of the Tenali and Repalle taluks—because Tenali forms the chief place and centre for agricultural and commercial purposes for the whole division—the hon.

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the Minister will kindly consider the matter and give us the necessary aid. In this connexion, Sir, I may submit for the very kind consideration of the hon. the Chief Minister that the municipalities also might be given some grant for their roads. Though a small town, we have about 18 miles of metal roads and the recent storm has washed away most of our metal roads, and we have now taken advantage of the Revenue Department's kind extension to us of monetary aid, so far as the use of the palm-leaf leaves is concerned. We have availed ourselves of that kindness and I hope and trust that this important question of grants to local bodies for roads between village and village, which is really a very necessary thing and perhaps the first item that ought to be taken on hand, as also the question of including younger municipalities in this grant for road-making purposes will be taken into consideration."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to support the motion for the reduction of Rs. 100 in the grant asked for. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the hardship that the people of Uttankarai taluk in Salem district are suffering from."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think we had better adhere to the practice we have established for some time to state on paper the purpose for which a particular out is proposed to be made. Coming to that purpose till that matter is disposed of by the hon. Member, I shall be allowed to make general remarks. The hon. Member is at liberty to do so if the question of the Taluk municipality is disposed of."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"This also refers to a bridge."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"But the hon. Member has not given notice of it."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, as the criticism of my hon. Friend from Guntur is concerned I think he refers to certain bridges in the municipal area which does not form part of the subject-matter of the discussion to-day. No such proposal has come before the Government and when any such proposal comes up to the Government, the Government will consider it on its merits. I have not yet heard from my hon. Friend from North Arcot as to what his complaint is."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, since the hon. the Chief Minister has been generous enough to refer to my grievance I would say what my complaint is. The people of Papireddipatti and other villages in Uttankarai taluk in Salem district are suffering great hardship on account of the want of a bridge over the river Vanniyar. Among the people who are largely affected are the people belonging to the depressed classes whose cause my hon. Friend Mr. Veeran has been espousing in season and out of season in this House. They are all cultivators and they are forced to carry their produce across the river."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"May I know from the hon. Member whether the bridge is on the trunk road or on the second class road?"

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"It is in the taluk board area. The Dharmapuri taluk board is the poorest of the proverbially poor taluk boards in the Salem district. This road is not on the trunk road; but it is one leading to the vicinity of that notorious Bomidi railway station where the fatal accident took place. Most of the people there are agriculturists and the bridge is one of the very important means for tapping the agricultural

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* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“ My reason for moving this amendment is simply this ; to lighten the task of the Director of Agriculture and to avoid delay in the matter of granting licences. My amendment will enable the licences being granted more promptly. I do not think it necessary to add anything more to support my amendment. I do not want that in the matter of granting licences there should be only one central authority which I fear may not be able to deal with the large number of applications, so that the greater part of his time may not be taken over this matter. So, I suggest an alternative that such other officer as the Director of Agriculture may authorize may also grant the licence. I hope that due discretion and considerable latitude will be given in the matter of selecting the officers ”

Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR : —“ I second the amendment. In doing so, I beg leave to point out that in the proposed notification the interests of my district of North Arcot have not been properly safeguarded. While the transport of cotton lint alone from the district has been allowed without restriction, there is restriction placed on the transport of kappas, seeds, etc. Now, Sir, in my district the industry of growing cotton has been introduced only very lately, and, as pointed out by the hon. the Minister for Development, the area under cotton cultivation is comparatively little.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT : —“ What has he to do with the seconding of this amendment ? ”

Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR : —“ I beg leave to point out that the industry has been introduced into the district at the instance of the Agricultural Department and as a result of propaganda work done by the Agricultural Department, and that, as this cotton has to be disposed of by the growers who have only recently taken to it, placing them under great restrictions and requiring them to apply to the Director of Agriculture for licences and all that, will only tend to discourage the spread of this cultivation. Apart from the trouble and cost involved in applying to the Director of Agriculture, I think the very idea of the ryot having to apply to some officer somewhere will only act as a deterrent to growing cotton on a large scale. I therefore think that taking the infancy of the industry into consideration, all sorts of facilities should be given to the grower and that he should be asked to apply to an officer who is nearer his home. So local officers ought to be authorized to issue these licences instead of the Presidency officer. I therefore second this amendment, and I hope that the hon. Minister will see that even officers of the lower grade like the tahsildars or the revenue inspectors are authorized to issue the licences.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI : —“ I accept the amendment.”

The amendment was put and carried.

The resolution together with the draft notification as amended was then put and passed.

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : —“ It is now 1-25 p.m., almost lunch time. I suggest that we adjourn now and go on with the Village Officers

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Mr T. M. MOILU SAHIB :—"Sir, I want to know whether any sum is allotted for roads in North Malabar. In this connexion, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the trunk road from Calicut is crossed by four rivers and not one of these rivers has a bridge. It is high time that the Local Self-Government Department constructs at least one bridge in that road."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I represent the whole district of Malabar, North Malabar and South Malabar included. I have the interests of the whole district at heart."

"Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. P. V. Gopalan has tabled a separate token motion for the purpose of discussing the question of trunk road from Calicut to Payyanur and the question of providing road bridges for several rivers in Malabar. My hon. Friend Mr. Moida Sahib has already referred to the same question and I want to know whether I shall be allowed to speak on the motion of Mr. Gopalan or whether I shall be told afterwards that I ought to have spoken on the point raised by Mr. Moida Sahib."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"On a point of order, Sir."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am also raising a point of order, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Sir, the hon. Minister has not yet replied to my amendment and before that is done we are going to discuss other amendments and general principles?"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PAVAGAD :—"I have no objection to have his amendment put to the House."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I suppose the hon. the Mover of the amendment has made up his mind to withdraw. Does he want any further information from the hon. Minister?"

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"I hope, Sir, the hon. Minister has been following my remarks closely and he is convinced of the need for the improvements in Telali which I have advocated. I learn from the explanatory memorandum that this grant is intended only for the development of rural areas. I have no objection, Sir, that the rural areas should have these grants. I shall wait for another opportunity and I earnestly hope and trust that the hon. Minister will have some sympathy for the municipalities also. I therefore beg leave to withdraw my amendment."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"The motion is by leave withdrawn."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 8,61,030 be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to discuss the question of trunk road from Calicut to Payyanur and the question of providing road bridges for several unbridged rivers in Malabar. In doing so, I want to bring one important fact to the notice of the hon. Minister."

"At present, the Madras-Calicut trunk road stops in the middle of the district. Its extension as far as Payyanur to a distance of seventy miles has been pressed on the Government more than once, but with no effect. It satisfies the conditions to class a road as trunk road. In classing the Madras-Calicut road as a trunk road, the idea of Government evidently was to have a through communication from Madras to the farthest end of the presidency. This idea is sorely realized when the road stops at Calicut. The real trunk road continues from there to Payyanur, the northern end of the district."

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A trunk road should be designated by the names of its two terminal towns and not by a town in the middle. The Madras-Calicut trunk road is therefore a misnomer.

"The road not only connects South Kanara with Malabar but also passes through the French territory of Mahe and the municipalities of Tellicherry and Cannanore which latter is a town of Military importance. The Military authorities have already pointed out that from a Military point of view also the extension of the road as far as Payyanur as a trunk road would be most desirable and that apart from any commercial benefits which might ensue, it would very considerably facilitate military operations in Malabar should such a regrettable contingency again arise.

"At a meeting of the Road Board constituted by Government, the importance of the Calicut-Payyanur road and the urgent need of converting it into a trunk road were discussed. The Road Board accepted the proposal and recommended its conversion into a trunk road. But Government shelved this matter for want of funds. From the facts stated above it will be observed that the question of converting this road into a trunk road can no longer be delayed.

"Sir, if a person travels from Calicut to Payyanur he will find that there is a distance of 60 or 70 miles and there are about 6 or 7 rivers. The Officer Commanding the Malabar Forces has been urging on the attention of the Government the necessity to provide road bridges for Mahe and Kadakadavu rivers. Although there are other small rivers, I would earnestly request the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to make no delay in having bridges constructed for these two rivers. The demolished materials have been taken away by the President of the District Board of Malabar for constructing bridges and culverts over other rivers in the district. It is a fact that almost all the taluk boards have closed with a deficit balance, and over and above that the Malabar District Board has been asked to bear a loss of Rs. 1,00,000. When conditions in Malabar are such and the district and taluk boards are insolvent, I do not know whether we can expect a single pie for any one of these roads from them. I would therefore appeal to the good heart of the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to consider this question favourably. But if he is going to utilize this particular grant solely for the purpose of improving roads in rural parts, I would earnestly appeal to him to give us some funds—I mean for the District Board of Malabar—so that we may utilize them for improving our roads. When finances permit, he may come forward with additional funds for the purpose of building bridges."

* Mr. N. DEVENDRUDU:—“యూ గ్రామం కి ద రోడ్డుకు పంపిణీలుకునాను యేర్పాటుచేసిన సొమ్ము రూ 8,61,030 లతో నోచావరి జిల్లా జంకారెడ్డిగూడెం నన్న జిల్లే రకు పంపిన కిట్టవలెనది యిది నా ఆభిప్రాయము. అప్పుకి నుంచి వైజాము పంట యొకట్టు ఆ రోడ్డునే యేలూరు నగరం రా గ్రామాదులకు బండ్లమీద రావలెనుగాన ప్లీము వచ్చినచో యేరు పూర్తిగా వచ్చి 5, 6 రోజులు బండ్లు, వనశ్యులు చాటుటకు వీలువుండదుగాన అచ్చట పంపిన ఆశ్చర్యమని తెలుపుట నయినది.

“యేలూరు నగరమున్న శిల్పివేరుమీద పెంపాడు రోడ్డుకు పంపిన లేనియడల చాలా కష్టము గాయున్నది. కొత్తూరు, ముప్పూరి, కెడిపాడు, నాయడగూడెం, కనకి, కుదరవల్లి, గుడివాడ వెల్లుదారిగుండా గుడివాడ తాలూకా, యేలూరు తాలూకాలో కొంత భాగముగా పండె భాగస్య

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ము అంతా నులూరు అండ్ల వైస రావలయును. తప్పిలేరులో బాన్సు లాగలేక బండ్లు 5-6 గంటలు, రోజువరికు నిల్వయుండనుగాన రప్పిలేరుకు వంతెన కట్టించిన సదు ప్రజలకు చిక్కులు తోడి నుకంకా బండ్లు వెళ్లను. ప్లాకాం మనష్యలకు కష్టములేకుండా వెళ్లవారు గాన తప్పక పెద్దనాడు రోడ్డుకు తప్పిలేరు వద్ద వంతెన అవుసరం. గనుక శ్రీ గవర్న మెంటువారు దుర్గాలు చేయవరని చెప్పదన్నాను.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“My hon. Friend who preceded me spoke in Telugu, and I hope he has said something in support of the motion. I was carefully listening to the observations made by the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government. He has not allotted any funds for the construction and repair of roads and bridges in Malabar. My hon. Friend Mr. Gopalan has already referred to the state of roads leading to Payyamar from Calicut. Of course the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has stated that the allotment that has been made in this Demand is not for trunk roads. The trunk road commencing from Madras goes to several districts in the south and ends at Calicut. In the northern end of Malabar district there is a place called Payyanur and the distance between Calicut and Payyanur is about 70 miles. Although the road leading to Payyanur is a trunk road, yet I may point out that Government have not spent a pi for the upkeep of this road. It is one of the most important roads in the district, and it is but fair that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government should allot some funds for the construction of road bridges for the road from Calicut to Payyanur. It has already been stated that there are five or six rivers between Calicut and Payyanur. There are many other rivers which have not been provided with road bridges. It is a notorious fact that the rainfall both in South Kanara and Malabar is very heavy, and for about six months in the year it is very difficult to cross many of these rivers. I would urge on the attention of Government that if these rivers are not provided with proper bridges it will be extremely difficult to cross from one bank of the river to the other. It is therefore necessary that the Provincial Government should come forward with assistance to the district board for providing bridges across these rivers. I hope the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government will kindly bear these remarks in mind so that he may do something though not now at least in future. I may also state that the Chamber of Commerce which waited on His Excellency when he visited Malabar urged the claims of the district for these bridges.”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—“On principle I oppose the proposition put forward by my hon. Friends who preceded me. Funds are needed very urgently for village roads and not for trunk roads whether they are first-class or second-class. After all, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government can do only one thing at a time. No doubt hon. Members from Malabar have made out a case for the extension of the trunk road in their district. The growing need at the present moment is for village roads. There are other and more competent people to take care of trunk roads. Similarly also with regard to Imperial departments. My hon. Friend Mr. P. V. Gopalan said that the Military authorities were urging upon the attention of Government the need for the extension of the trunk road from Calicut to Payyanur. Now in our country the Military department can get sanction for anything they want. At present we should not think of diverting any portion of this sum for any other purpose. It must exclusively be spent for the construction of village roads. I hope that in spite of the powerful advocacy of some hon. Members,

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the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will have the courage to set his face sternly against their demand for a trunk road and utilize all the funds for the expansion of village roads."

* Mr. R. VEFRIAN:—"I fully endorse the remarks of my hon. Friend Mr. Ratnaswami. There is a Tamil proverb which says 'வயிறு கூழுக்கு அலகுதே; கொண்டை முகத்து அடிமதே.' The position taken up by my Malabar friends is like that." (Laughter).

Mr. V. MAHAVA RAJA:—"If, as my hon. Friend Mr. Ratnaswami said, the whole amount is going to be spent for village communications and for putting up bridges on village roads, I have nothing to say regarding the expansion of the trunk road from Calicut to Payyanur. But if the hon. Minister is going to utilize any portion of the amount on trunk roads or second-class roads, I press for the claims of Malabar in extending the road from Calicut to Payyanur. But most of these roads as has already been explained by my hon. Friends, Messrs. Krishnan Nayar, Gopalan and Moidu, suffer from want of bridges, and I have pressed the claims before the Government on more than one occasion. As far as bridges on this road are concerned, the hon. the Chief Minister himself has experienced the difficulty of crossing so many rivers between Calicut and Payyanur during his tour in Malabar even though he must have been enamoured of the decorations of Chengadama (boats). It is a fact that both the Mabe and Kidakadam river bridges have been demolished and most of the materials which were unfit for any other use were utilized for the construction of other small culverts and bridges. Another road which is equally important to be converted into a trunk road is Tellicherry-Manantody road. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and a department of the Chamber of Commerce waited on His Excellency when he toured in North Malabar. There are very many unbridged rivers in my district to speak of the village roads. So if the hon. the Chief Minister is going to spend a portion of this amount for the improvement of second-class roads or trunk roads, I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will not forget the claims of Malabar. As far as the village roads are concerned, we have got very many places where we have not got any roads at all. So the proposal of the Government to pay an equal amount to the local boards will not at all work, as all the taluk boards in Malabar work at a minus balance. It will be impossible for them to come forward with any amount for the opening of new village roads. So whatever the Government are prepared to give must be given irrespective of any condition."

Rao Bahadur P. RAMAN: "Mr. President, Sir, I wish to speak a few words about bridges. A man travelling from Calicut to Cannanore has to get down at every six or seven miles and cross the rivers. Time is thus wasted especially in these days of motors. Our monsoon is peculiar to our district, and it lasts for six months. At times the rivers are so swollen that no one will venture to ply boats for a few days. Lately a peculiarity was observed in Kutakatam river which is a very important river. A ridge was formed either by the action of water or by the river sitting up at a distance of about 15 yards from the southern bank of the river. Boats had to wait till high tide set in to pass over this ridge. So, you see the great inconvenience which the public are put to. We have been bombarding the district board, but it has no funds. I would therefore press upon the Government the necessity of taking up this bridge at once."

The Council then (1-33 p.m.) rose for lunch.

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After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Sir, the Malabar district is intimately connected by either canal or road with South Kanara. What I would urge is that there should be a comprehensive scheme of trunk roads as well as other roads; a larger sum should be spent for keeping many of these roads in good repair. I will not go into details, but I may mention here that if the money that is spent on what are called forest industries which have brought us so many heavy losses is spent on improving communications in the interests of the companies and firms who have started saw mills of their own, such communications will enable them to bring the forest produce from the jungles and ghats down the rivers and roads with greater ease and less expense. I think in this way Government will be doing a great benefit to the public both by opening the villages in the interior specially near the ghats and also the other interior parts of the districts to the nearest ports. What is required is that more means of communication everywhere all over the district should be opened in the interests of the people going about as also for the purposes of traffic. I beg to point out that the money spent on road communications is altogether too small and I would appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister, as also the Home Member and other Members on the Treasury Bench who have got charge of Forests that more attention to means of communication has to be paid rather than spend money on useless and wasteful schemes like the saw mills and such other things which should be left to private enterprise.”

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—“I move, Sir, that the question be now put.”

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“I submit that I will be prepared to consider whether I can withdraw my motion after hearing what the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has to say in this matter.”

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Mr. President, Sir, I have very little to say by way of reply except to express my sense of genuine sympathy with the members of North and South Malabar in their distress at not having their rivers bridged. I myself have had the fortune or the misfortune of motoring over these long roads and I felt the need for bridges. But, Sir, however urgent the construction of bridges over these rivers may be, I doubt whether the question of bridging these rivers has anything to do with the demand I have made. I have no doubt that the question of bridging Malabar rivers will be considered in right time. So far as the construction of bridges over the 1st and 2nd class roads is concerned, it is the enormous cost that more or less stands in the way of taking up the execution of such schemes. I have been seriously considering whether the Government cannot invite expert opinion from Europe and America as to the possibility of minimizing the cost of construction of bridges. When that question is settled, I think the Government will be prepared to take up these schemes one after another as funds will be available. My Friend from South Kanara has raised the question of roads in South Kanara and said that he would like to have some funds allotted for the construction of those roads. I am afraid that he has forgotten that the demand as it has been moved includes an allotment for South Kanara too. Is it advisable that because we are not able to take up the costly schemes of bridging some rivers, we should not attend to the improvement of village communications?”

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* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN. —“ On the assurance given by the hon. the Chief Minister and after seriously considering it, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVIII (i).

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO. —“ Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs 12,000 under ‘Civil Works -Transferred, 41.—Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers’ for the construction of quarters and office for the Excise Circle Inspector at Amalapuram.

“When the Amalapur circle was formed, no buildings were available for the purpose of accommodating the office or to serve as quarters for the officer. So we temporarily located him in Rajahmundry. Now, even the house in which he is located at Rajahmundry is required for other public purposes. Therefore the circle office and the circle officer will have to be on boats as it were between Rajahmundry and Amalapur. There being no proper communication from Rajahmundry to Amalapur, the only way is that he will have to go about in a boat and hold his office in the boat and have his quarters also therein. The Rajahmundry house has been taken away and no house is available in Amalapur. So we have urgently to construct the quarters and the office at Amalapur. It is very necessary therefore to pass this demand.”

Mr. B. Venkataratnam asked in Telugu whether it was proposed to give the quarters free to the Excise officer. The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro replied in Telugu that the Government would receive rent from the officer from the time he occupies the quarters.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVIII (ii).

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MCHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur: —“ Sir, I beg to move

‘that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 75,000 under “Civil Works -Transferred”.’

“The use of the bel-chains has been condemned by everybody as the most inhuman system. Hon. Members of the Legislative Council have been urging upon the Government the necessity for the removal of the bel-chains system from the Allipuram jail. At the present moment the Mappilla prisoners there are all under bel-chains. I am now moving this demand in order that improvements might be made to the Allipuram jail buildings so that we may do away with this inhuman system of bel-chains. I therefore hope that the hon. House will pass this demand.”

The demand was put and the grant was made.

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III

THE MADRAS VILLAGE OFFICERS RESTORATION BILL.

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS: " Mr. President, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Village Officers Restoration Bill and to move that it be read in Council.

2-46 p.m.

" The Bill is a very simple measure in its object. In the wording employed to attain that object special care has to be exercised lest it should entail consequences which were not intended. The object is mainly that in cases where it is proposed to revive the village offices that have been abolished recently in pursuance of the policy of amalgamation we should have power to appoint the former incumbents thereto. Under the present law, if we divide a village that has been amalgamated, the village officers who have to be appointed to the new village must be persons of the family of the present holders, and it would not be possible to re-appoint those who held the office before the amalgamation. It is to enable the appointment of those whose services were dispensed with at the amalgamation that this Bill is brought forward. So far, I do not think there would be any great objection to the measure.

" In the wording of the Bill as drafted, one or two defects have been pointed out to the Government since it was published. These defects may be removed during the examination of the Select Committee, if the Bill is allowed to proceed so far. But I will refer to two defects to avoid possible misapprehension. The first is that it appeared to some people on examining the Bill as published that there was some intimation on the part of the Government to give discretion as to whether in cases where the villages were redivided the old officers should be restored or not. That was not the intention. The intention was that the old officers should resume office if the villages were redivided.

" The other point is that the wording of sections 4 and 5 of the Bill is such as to give rise to the idea that it is intended to give a title to those who held offices as gumastas before the amalgamation. There was no such intention on the part of the Government. If the draft conveys such an idea, that is a mistake which should be rectified in the Select Committee. So much for the Bill.

" But the House will be probably more interested and want to know more particularly what the extent is to which Government propose to redivide the amalgamated villages and to restore the old officers, and perhaps even more than that, the salaries which the Government propose that they should get in future. On those points, subject to two conditions which I shall shortly mention, the Government have not come to a final conclusion. They would like, before doing so, to hear the views of hon. Members in this House who are interested in the matter. The two conditions which the Government have decided on are, first, that the total cost should not exceed the amount which is provided for in the current year's budget. The cost of the village establishments was raised by reason of the revision of the salaries and, notwithstanding the savings effected by the amalgamation, it increased from Rs. 72 lakhs to Rs. 119 lakhs a year, which is approximately the present figure. The Government feel that they cannot go beyond that and spend anything more on these establishments than this Rs. 119 lakhs. The other condition is that the extent of the redividing must depend upon the administrative need for it. The Government do not propose to restore villages which are so small that a separate village establishment is really not justified, or to reconstitute village

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establishments in deserted villages. Subject to those two conditions, the Government, as I have already said, have not finally decided what lines the re-division and restoration should proceed upon. But as a basis of discussion I would mention certain provisional conclusions or provisional lines of revision which might interest hon. Members.

"In regard to the restoration of officers, taking first the case of ryotwari tracts there are two separate areas to be considered, first, those in which the regrouping was carried out and, secondly, those where it was stopped. After regrouping had proceeded to a certain extent and had practically been completed in ryotwari tracts nearly all over the Presidency, after a debate in this Council the process of reorganization was stopped. When we consider what we are to do in the way of re-dividing the villages, we have to consider these two areas separately. Because it would seem only fair that we should proceed on the same principles in both; that is, in villages where there has been no regrouping, regrouping should be done to the extent to which we propose that it should continue in the area in which it has been completely carried out.

"The same principle is applicable to the proprietary areas, the only difference there being that the regrouping was not carried out to anything like the same extent in the proprietary areas as it was in the ryotwari areas.

"Then, as to the question of pay: taking talaiyaris first, the suggestion put forward is that the rate of pay for the talaiyaris should remain as it now is in ryotwari areas. The reason is that in the case of the talaiyari his pay may reasonably be taken to represent much the greater part of his cost of living than in the case of the other two officers. In the case of the karnam, also, in ryotwari areas, it is provisionally not proposed to alter the rate of Rs. 15, which is the present rate. The ground for that is that the karnam is, much more than the headman, a full-time official. Although it may be contended that his whole time is not bound up with Government work, yet it is so to a much larger extent than in the case of the headman. If these propositions were conceded, it would follow that the pay of the headman would then have to be fixed at the figure that would make the total cost of the whole establishment not exceed the present cost. If all offices were to be restored and no offices were to be abolished in areas where no abolition has taken place hitherto, the rate for the headman on an arithmetical computation would work out to Rs. 7 per mensem. But as some offices would not be revived in the areas where regrouping has already taken place, and as some offices would be found to be necessary in places where no regrouping has taken place, it is hoped, although we have not worked out detailed figures, that we will be able to fix the headman's pay at Rs. 10 per mensem.

"In zamindari tracts, the proposal for consideration is that the present rate of pay for menials, which is Rs. 6, should be retained and that the rates of pay for the karnams should be reduced by one rupee in each grade. In zamindari areas we have them in different grades of pay, and propose to reduce the pay by one rupee in each grade, and to work out the rates for the headmen so that the total cost of the staff should not exceed the budget grant. In this case, it is more difficult to estimate the figure that would result therefrom. Because in the estate areas there are graded rates of pay. It is not uniform as in the case of ryotwari tracts. As a preliminary calculation, as far as we can foresee, the figures will work out a little more than the following: 1,438 (at Rs. 5), 1,224 (Rs. 6), 332 (Rs. 7), 87 (Rs. 8), 76 (Rs. 9), 33 (Rs. 10) and 40 (Rs. 12).

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"There are a few cases in ryotwari areas where karnams and munsils get a higher rate. It is not proposed to touch those. They were fixed for special reasons.

"Now, in considering these proposals and in criticising them, I would ask hon. Members to bear in mind the interests of the villages as being the predominant factor in the matter. The general feeling of the Government is that it is necessary to have as village headmen men of substance and influence in the villages and not petty officials to whom a few rupees of pay is a great consideration, and I venture to think that it will be conceded that the villagers themselves would probably prefer that the headman should be a man of some substance and influence rather than a petty official who would suck out for the sake of Rs. 15 per mensem."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I second it."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I wish to have some information. May I know what is the criterion on which the villages are to be re-divided or officers restored, whether it is by the *beris* or the area or what?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"As to that, my idea is to lay down, in consultation with the Revenue authorities, a standard below which we would not think it necessary to order a *beris*, and then to order re-division in cases which are above that standard. We shall have to fix a standard and then to have it applied by the revenue authorities. But the standard of course would have to take into consideration not only the *beris* but also the population, probably also whether the land is dry or wet, and the number of survey fields. This problem is quite familiar to the Administration and I think we should be able to devise a satisfactory standard."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, this Bill is a long-expected one. There is no doubt about that. The question now is whether the House will accept the present Bill and whether the Bill satisfies the requirements of the resolution of the 9th February 1924. I am afraid the Bill does not go far to meet the requirements of practically the unanimous resolution of this House.

"In the first place, those three words 'in certain cases' found in the preamble as well as in the body of the Bill have filled the minds of a large number of village officers with consternation. Sir, another matter, viz., the discretion allowed under the Bill, as it is, to District Collectors is also felt to be a disquieting factor. It is not expected that the Collectors, with their numerous other avocations, can find time or opportunity to know and be acquainted with the work of these small people called village officers. Whether it is intended or not, village officers will be put to great hardship by this discretion being given to the Collectors. As we know things are done in this country, some correspondence clerk or some small official puts up notes and they will be approved. At any rate, it is not possible to forget that when the regrouping operation was going on some time back I do not want to enter into details—large sums were transferred from hand to hand, and many people suffered. It is a notorious fact. Not much is gained by referring to this fact in greater detail. Therefore Sir, if any discretion is allowed in this matter, it may be that some subordinates may get enriched out of the sufferings of these poor village officers. The discretion allowed under the Bill may also lead to another act of injustice like this. In the last grouping of villages some clever village officers got themselves retained in positions by ousting their rivals; it may be that the charges of the former officers were less important

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than those of their rivals. The men with heavier charges were dispossessed. Unless the grouping which took place is quashed automatically and village officers are restored, injustice will be done to men with heavier charges as they will lose their places in favour of men with lighter charges. The village officers are much afraid of such a contingency. They have held so many conferences between February 1, 1921 and now and have expressed the fear that unless the Bill is so framed as to restore the state of affairs as existed before the grouping took place, it is likely that they will be victims to another set of people. This fear is felt by all classes of people. The old Act gave them power to appeal to the Board of Revenue. Although an appeal to the Board of Revenue is not a very attractive proposition to many people in this country, still the Board of Revenue does some justice occasionally to some people. This chance of getting some justice is being taken away in many cases.

"Sir, about the pay of village officers, the hon. Mr. Mover of the Bill, hinted that it would be Rs. 10 or so; it will not be accepted by many. It is not very long ago there was a proposal in this House to increase the pay of the village officers from Rs. 15 to something very much more than that. Although that proposal was not carried in this House, yet the voting division on that occasion clearly shows that a large number of hon. Members in this House are in favour of increasing and not reducing the pay. Moreover, Sir, when money has been found for highly paid officers who have been characterised as the steel frame, money ought to be found for the steel frame of administration in the rural parts; we know what a large number of supplementary grants were moved during the last few days; all sources of generosity seem to be dried up in the case of village officers whose duties are varied and important. Their duty does not consist in the collection of kist only. They are magistrates and look after various kinds of duties. They are all powerful in the village. They look after a number of duties for a pittance of Rs. 15. Of course, the hon. Mover of the Bill has spoken highly of them. Many of them are very poor. I know what amount of supplies they have to find when highly paid officers visit their villages; they are afraid of the nightmare of the jamabandi. The pay of Rs. 15 given to them is too low. I hope the hon. Mover of the Bill will be pleased to see that the words 'in certain cases' are removed. The village officers will be highly pleased if the hon. Member will give an assurance that their pay will not be reduced."

"Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:— At this stage, I think I can give only a qualified support to this Bill. I do not think that we need oppose it. I should like to focus the attention of the House on three or four features of the Bill. The House may perhaps remember that three or four years ago it recommended to the Government by an almost unanimous resolution to fix the pay of the village headman at Rs. 15 or more. With a view to respect the feelings of this House and with a view to satisfy the agitation that was kept going on throughout the Presidency, the Government felt themselves bound to increase the pay of the village headmen and fixed it at Rs. 15. But when the question of finance came up, the Government felt the difficulty. They had to make both ends meet and also to give effect to the resolution of this House. The Government therefore through the Board of Revenue embarked upon a scheme of grouping the villages. The Members of the House will be struck with the fact that, as a result of the regrouping or amalgamation, as many as 16,584 men have been thrown out of employment, and left practically destitute to earn their livelihood. Out of this number of people, 11,500 men come of the depressed classes and they were all village

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methods. On going through the Bill, I find that it is somewhat carefully and guardedly worded. The preamble says 'whereas it is expedient *in certain cases*', not in all cases as should be expected, but only in certain cases. I should like to know what proportion those *certain cases* are likely to bear to the total number of villages affected by this regrouping. If this proportion is fairly large, if it comes to 90 or 95 per cent, I have absolutely no quarrel with that. The hon. the Revenue Member stated that very small villages villages having small beriz, small area, or a small number of people, could not have any grievance. But as a matter of fact we know that the regrouping has done a lot of mischief. It appears to have gone on to the greatest inconvenience of the village officers concerned, with the result that nobody seems to be satisfied. I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will view this question sympathetically without allowing himself to be influenced by the bogey of finance. I hope he will see his way to restore automatically as much as possible the whole body of persons who have been thrown out of employment. A great deal of the remarks turned upon the pay that will necessarily have to be paid to the village headmen. The hon. the Revenue Member stated that the office of the village headman which is hereditary in some districts carried with it a certain amount of prestige and that there was no necessity to give him higher pay. I would like to tell him how this Bill has been received by the public. After the publication of the Bill I had a talk with some village officers. A very small number of them, one feeling half a dozen said that they would be willing to be happily well as for nothing. They do not care for the pay that is attached to the post. About 20 or 30 village officers insisted upon their present pay of Rs. 15 being given. A fairly good number of them expressed to me that they would be satisfied if their pay was fixed at Rs. 12. But at the same time I must mention that some village headmen with whom I had consultation pointed out to me in very telling and forcible terms, from which I found no way to escape, the unwisdom of the Government in reducing the pay of these men whereas as a matter of fact officers and clerks in other departments have had the benefit of incremental time-scales. I found it difficult to resist that argument. They pointed out to me that side by side with the reduction in their pay the prospects of other men working in other departments have increased; they argued with me very strenuously and asked me whether it was fair, just, equitable and reasonable that while a large number of persons have incremental rates of pay they should be paid only Rs. 10 or Rs. 12.

3-16 p.m. That is an argument which I think, is sure to carry conviction to any one's mind. I am not altogether without hope and I should like to emphasise this aspect of the case that it is desirable and politic on the part of the Government not to interfere with the pay, for it will be setting up a bad precedent of once starting a man on a higher pay and then asking him to be content with a lower pay. Are the Government prepared to pursue this policy in other departments under their control? I do not think the Government can be well justified in coming before the public and asking these poor village officers, especially the village headmen, to be satisfied with less pay.

"As regards clause 3, I should like to make one observation. It says: 'The Collector shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the First Act or the Second Act, have power to, etc.' It is one thing to vest the power in the Collector and another thing to compel him to exercise that power. Therefore I suggest the omission of the words 'have power to'.

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"Turning to section 4, I find 'subject to the control of the District Collector an order passed under section 3 of this Act shall final.' What is the kind of control contemplated here? Is it by way of appeal? But no right of appeal has been given. I think it is better instead of putting it in this vague, indefinite and nebulous way, that some definite finiteness is given and the matter set at rest.

"With these few remarks, I shall conclude by saying that the Government must extend its hand of fellowship to a much larger extent and be prepared even to meet some extra expenditure with a view to give solace and satisfaction to the large number of officers, who unfortunately, for no fault of their own, were suddenly thrown out of employment."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR — "Mr. President, Sir, I must at first express on behalf of the party to which I belong my gratification that the Government have been pleased to bring forward this Bill in consonance with resolution of this House passed unanimously some time in the beginning of last year. The question of re-appointing those who have been deprived of the office of village headman which they had held for generations was a question which was seriously fought out in this Council, and there was a great deal of feeling evinced by all sides of the House that those officers should be re-appointed. I was a member of the deputation that waited on the previous Governor of the Presidency and a reply was then given by the Governor that the question would be considered sympathetically. I am glad that in pursuance of that the hon. the Revenue Member has brought forward this Bill.

"We sitting on this side of the House are always keen to show our appreciation of any act of the Government which is calculated to meet public opinion and public demand. (Voices of 'hear, hear' from the Opposition side.) In the same generous spirit, the Government have come forward with this Bill. But there are one or two points in connexion with the Bill itself which have already been touched upon; there are one or two defects which have to be remedied in the select committee. A perusal of the Bill places me under the misapprehension that there has been loose drafting in connexion with the Bill, a little more of loose drafting than we are accustomed to in the Bills of the Local Government of Madras. Apart from the loose drafting, there have been two points raised by some of the hon. Members opposite which I think I should advert to. But the greatest objection has been taken to the expression 'in certain cases' which appears both in the preamble and in the statement of objects and reasons. Those of us who had anything to do with this question when the grouping of villages was going on, those of us who had the unfortunate privilege of hearing the grievances of those village headmen who have been deprived of their offices and the manner in which this regrouping was done, and the personnel which eventually came to be at the head of the grouping of villages, those of us who knew the danger in some districts among some officials with reference to this question, were apprehensive of the discretion to be shown in connexion with the re-division. But I am glad to be assured by the hon. the Revenue Member that there is no question of discretion being allowed to any section of officers in this matter, and that those villages which have been grouped will be re-divided now. I want to suggest a formal and simple formula for his consideration. Whenever you have proceeded with the grouping of villages in pursuance of the

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policy of retrenchment, whenever you have joined one village to another, because at one time your finances were so low that you wanted to have a saving out of this scheme, you are bound to go back because now you have to give up this idea of retrenchment, you are bound to re-divide all such villages which have been grouped in pursuance of that policy. But if apart from the policy of retrenchment, apart from this scheme by which the finances of the Presidency may be balanced by some little saving you may come to the conclusion that villages by themselves ought to be amalgamated because they had dwindled out of their previous importance or they were so small that it was unnecessary to have a village headman for these villages, in such cases probably the older theory may stand. But in every district where this has been done in pursuance of that policy—and we all know that that policy came into existence on a certain date—when the Board's Standing Order that was issued had to be superseded by another standing order in pursuance of a resolution of this Council, I suggest that every amalgamation which took place in the intervening period ought to be set aside automatically. There is no reason why you should make a distinction in such cases, and it is a distinction which will certainly not reflect credit on some of the subordinate officers of Government if it is persisted in.

“Then, Sir, apart from the measure itself, the hon. the Revenue Member placed some very serious proposals for consideration and invited the opinion of the House on those proposals. It would perhaps have been better if at a later stage when there was a larger House and we had more opportunity for discussing these proposals, they were placed before the House. Perhaps the House will take a better opportunity to give its definite and decided opinion on this matter. But inasmuch as the proposals have been placed before the House, I think it is fair to ask the hon. the Revenue Member and fair to ourselves that we should draw our attention to them. The question of the reduction of salary of village headmen has been prominently mentioned by the hon. the Revenue Member and my Friend from North Arcot has given his opinion on the matter. Now, Sir, we are in this unfortunate position that any proposal for reducing the salary of any set of officials is bound to be unpopular and is bound to be resisted by that set of officials. And we have also our duty to perform with respect to the masses. I want to invite the hon. the Revenue Member's attention pointedly to this fact. In the first reformed Legislative Council, a salaries committee was appointed to go into the question of pay of these officers. One of the main recommendations of that salaries committee in reference to the village officers was that the whole basis of their pay should be examined, and the question should be seriously considered by the Revenue Department whether the village headman, apart from other officials and the village karnams, should not be treated as a class apart and therefore the question of their pay should not be given a different aspect altogether. If I were to make myself plain, I believe the salaries committee definitely recommended that the question of treating the amount given to headmen as honorarium should be seriously considered by the Government and the Government should also take into consideration the question of their official status or prestige. The hon. the Revenue Member quite correctly stated in his introductory remarks on the Bill that he expected the village headmen to be men of status and position and therefore men who do not depend on their salary. I want to suggest to him why give this salary at all? The moment you call it salary or pay, that moment you give the man a status, and you obviously make a comparison

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between him and the karnam. The karnam gets Rs. 15, the headman Rs. 12 or Rs. 15. Naturally, the distinction is invidious as against the village headman. If you call it an honorarium, it is quite different. After all, to quote one of Shakespeare's maxims:

"What is in a name? that which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet."

"There is a world of difference between salary and honorarium; for if once you call it an honorarium, then much of the criticism that could be levelled justifiably at the smallness of pay will lose its force.

"Then, Sir, I am again adventing to the report of the salaries committee. I believe we stated then that the question of the status and dignity of the village headman should be seriously considered. I am aware of a recent Government Order issued three years ago, in which this was to a certain extent adverted to. But I feel there has not been enough attention paid to the Government Order by the officers of the Government all over the Presidency to this day; and only this morning I was hearing a complaint that the village headmen were treated as if they were menials. The tahsildar or the revenue inspector asks the village headman to appear before him forthwith; a chit goes to him in a most inhuman way—possibly written by pencil on a scrap of paper the cleanliness of which the clerk said the letter asking the village headman to supply this or that information within 24 hours, and if not, serious notice will be taken. Does the hon. the Revenue Member expect any man of status to put up with this condition? If he wants him to work like that, he cannot possibly expect him of status for that post. There are two important points which the hon. the Revenue Member should bear in mind if he were to have a cent's worth of sympathy for village headmen. First call their pay an honorarium, and let them clearly understand—the officers of his department in particular—that these headmen are gentlemen and not the menial servants of every tahsildar or revenue inspector and let the men themselves realize that they have been given a social status and recognized as respectable men. In the second place, if a Government Order be issued or orders enforced that, as far as possible, these men will be given their proper status. I am aware that administrative difficulties there are and there will be and that red-tapism demands that somehow or other work has to be done and that work is not done if there is not a certain amount of legal or illegal coercion.

"But, Sir, after all is said and done—the tradition may be a little difficult to be altered—I am bound to say that without this legal coercion that now exists, without these rough and ready methods, the work will get on, perhaps a little more satisfactorily than it does at present; the reports will come then perhaps a little more regularly, perhaps a little more accurately. Just now the tendency is to hurry them up, if you give them only 24 hours you will get only some sort of report but if you treat them as gentlemen and expect them to do their work properly, then you will get much better information and much more accurate reports from these village headmen. But unless you give them that status, that position, and unless you recognize them as really independent men, unless you do that, I do not think the position that has been taken by the hon. the Revenue Member will be felt to be satisfactory by the village headmen.

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"One word more. I am talking now of the headmen concerned whose hereditary right I am anxious to preserve. Because, in the days when I was young I certainly felt that the village headman was a power in the land. I was raised, if I may use an Americanism, in the Ceded districts and I still have very vivid recollection of the status, dignity and power in those days more than 30 or 35 years ago, attached to the position of a village headman. Right in the Karnool district were men certainly of power, a great deal of influence and certainly most respected men so far as officialdom was concerned. Tahsildars, huzar saibstaders and divisional officers even considered it a privilege to have their friendship and to some extent claimed that privilege. But owing to the economic considerations and owing to the power of those who are at the helm of affairs in the centre of Government and also owing to several considerations of that kind, a great deal of that power and influence gradually disappeared under the bureaucratic system of Government. I want that to be revived, if possible. Possibly it is a most forlorn wish, but still something must be done for it.

3 30 p.m. "Now, Sir, if you take up the position that you must have an adequate salary and that you must be paid for your work, then you are bound to lose what little of dignity remains in you. If you want a living wage, if you say that a labourer is worthy of his hire, then nobody could testify to the headman's character of your service or your claim to be treated as a gentleman. That is the thing I want to say plainly if you are going to suggest that Rs. 20 or Rs. 35 should be paid to you. Anybody who knows the real conditions would realize that it is not a question of Rs. 20 or Rs. 25. Much more is deserved by these men, but I may say how at the same time can you reconcile it with your hereditary claim for the appointment? That is why most of those who sat with me found themselves unable to support the proposition for the enhancement of their salary. We felt, and we leave it to the headmen themselves to judge whether we were right or not, that the hereditary principle was much more important than the question of salary and therefore we said with one voice that the office should be a hereditary office and that this question of salary should be solved in quite a different way. Therefore I want to warn the village headmen that if they take up the position to-day that they must have their salary adequate to the work they do, then the agitation is bound to come from my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian, from other hon. Members and from the Government themselves that the principle of heredity in regard to the holding of offices is a principle of the last century and that it should be done away with. If, on the other hand, you realize your position and make the Government realize that you are there as really a headman of the village, as a man of status, as a man of position, as a member of a family which for generations has occupied this supremely eminent position in the village hierarchy, then I say, you should not care for this pittance of salary. You should prefer the honorarium which would give you that position and that status which for instance the taluk board president or any other honorary officer to-day claims. Till you do that, till you restore the dignity of the village headman, you cannot build up that village system in the country which was there in days past and which men of all persuasions in certain presidencies in particular seek to revive. We seek to revive the same village entity, the same village corporation in a different way. Perhaps we do not go about advertising to the same extent, but every one of us who have the real interest of the country at heart do realize that village restoration is the main thing. Therefore it is that village restoration,

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to restore the village headman to his proper place, not as a paid servant of the Government at the beck and call of every Tom, Dick and Harry but as a really substantial man and a man of position that we are aiming at."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR — "I am sorry that the hon. the Revenue Member is somewhat halting in his attempt to restore the original state of affairs in its entirety. If he wants to amalgamate a few villages here and there, I think that question must be tackled separately. Even with regard to the other class of cases where he thinks it obligatory that the new villages should be split up into their old component parts I doubt whether the phraseology adopted in this draft Bill would accomplish the object he has in view. Section 3 says:

"Where new villages formed by the grouping or amalgamation of villages are re-divided into the old component villages, or others which have been reduced are revived, the following consequences will ensue."

"Sir, the process by which the old offices are attempted to be revived is one of re-division. Now, I submit that it is not possible in very many cases by a resort to this simple process of re-division to bring about the old villages back into activity. Because the villages are defined as either a single village or a group of villages. Now, at the last revision, villages have been grouped to suit certain administrative conveniences. For example let us take village A, village B and village C. Now village C may not be a single village but may consist of two or three villages, say C 1, C 2 and C 3. Now, Sir, at the time of the last revision, they have formed these three villages into two groups and in doing so have broken up village C and taken a hamlet for one village and another hamlet for another village. Now, if they resort only to the simple process of re-division they cannot by any method bring about the old village entity back into existence. So that not only this process of re-division has to be resorted to, but also the process of regrouping. It is only then, I think, Sir, that we can achieve what we have in view."

"Again, section 3 clause (b), of the Bill refers to the age of 21 years. That, I think, again is a hardship in the case of such of the people who were 20 or 21 at the time of the last revision, but were not qualified to hold the office at the time of the last revision when their offices were taken away from them. They thought they had no chance of reinstatement to these offices and so did not care to qualify themselves for these appointments. Now, this Act comes into force and we are to take into account merely the fact whether they are or are not 21 years old now and whether they are qualified or not. I think the age-limit must be increased by five years, i.e., the interval which has passed since the last revision and the date when this Act may come into force."

"As regards section 4, the control by the district collector must be defined a little more clearly. What is that control to be? Are you going to allow regular appeal or is the power confined to the ordinary powers of revision conferred by Regulation VII of 1828."

"Most important of all is clause 5 where power is given to the appointing officer to appoint a particular man or not at his discretion. If a man is dead there is no question at all. But this section gives an officer power to appoint some one else in the place of a particular man whom for any reason he may consider to be not available. This will give a large scope for unscrupulous people to do wrong to the people concerned. We know what happened in the last revision. I am very sorry to confess it. People really rallied round the appointing officer scrambling for these offices. I wish very earnestly that

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the Government delete this clause from this Bill. Their object must be to restore the old offices and the old officers without exception and if any one of them is incompetent you can frame charges and deal with him subsequently. But you must not give any powers to pass them by, at the very outset.

"Again, Sir, there are two or three kinds of offices. There is the registered office holder who may not be in office; the registered office holder who also holds office and the third man who may be a deputy. Now, I doubt very much whether the Government include all these cases in section 5. Surely they do not say that if the office was held last time by a deputy and it has stood in his name, his son must necessarily succeed to his appointment.

"Then there is clause 6 which refers to the right of succession. I do not know if this Bill takes away the right to sue in a civil court. Suppos there is a suit against a man which was time-barred before the last revision, would his re-appointment now give rise to a fresh cause of action or not? That is a point, I think which we have to consider and give an opinion upon. These are some of the points which occur to me on a perusal of the Bill."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULO.—"Mr. President, Sir, when first this Bill was placed in our hands we thought there would not be so much controversy as we were convinced since that there were some reasons to some of the reasons underlying the preparation of this Bill being revealed to us in this Hall this evening. It was more the explanation of the greater and more serious issues than the provisions or the wording of the Bill itself. As soon as the Bill came into our hands we thought that the whole attempt was to reinstate the village officers who in pursuance of a resolution of this hon. House were thrown out of office on account of a faulty act of many of the hon. Members of this very House. That the pay and prospects should be increased. For, if we go to the genesis of this matter we can see that it was because we wanted that the pay and prospects of these men should be increased that there came about a decrease in their number and also the clubbing of the villages. So, when we understood that this Bill is to be introduced we were only under the impression that the clubbing will be set at naught and regrouping will be effected. In other words, we thought that the villages as they stood before the clubbing would be restored to their original position and that the village officers who were thrown out by clubbing would automatically be restored. But now the other question has arisen, viz., that the pay and prospects of the village headmen, and the pay and prospects of the karnams (and assistant karnams also I suppose) should be considered. As far as the village headman is concerned, Sir, the question has been mooted whether he should have the hereditary right to office. My hon. Friend from Chingleput has been saying that the village headmen should be given only a small salary called honorarium, that many of the village headmen would be forthcoming to work almost as honorary workers because it is not so much the little money that is given to them which is only an inducement for them to work as village headmen as the position of the village headmen and the long cherished hope of their having ruled the units which formed the foundation of the administration, that counts. It is that sentiment to which they are clinging and not so much the remuneration that is offered to them. Therefore if that sentiment is respected and if instead of calling it a salary you call it an honorarium as suggested by my hon. Friend there will not be much difficulty so far as finance under this item is concerned.

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"As regards the other question of the hereditary right to office, I should very much like to press on the attention of the hon. Members that it is not because a man has suddenly become rich, on account of his success at the horse races one fine morning, his status in life improves but because for a long number of years, for a generation, and perhaps even from the time of our ancient kings they were headmen, their sons have been headmen; and therefore they pray that their posterity should be headmen. That is why they cling to this office. There are other things also to be considered in this small section and this could be done in the Select Committee. I hope therefore that the hon. Member in charge will kindly take these into consideration and give them that amount of attention which they deserve."

MR. CHAVADI K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, the offices of village headmen were originally confirmed by Statute and they were held by the influential and rich mirasdars of the village on a poor pay of Rs. 2½ to Rs. 7. It was an honorarium. The duties for which they are made responsible are too many and in fact they are the roots of the administration. The village headman has to respond to all officers in the various departments of Government, and he being the local officer, his information is to be relied on as trustworthy. The revenue and magisterial functions were combined in him, and the view was that he might command much influence and respect in the villages. It was with this object and reason that each village was made responsible for the post of village headman. If, in consideration of the onerous duties which the village headmen have to perform and if, in conformity with the established rates of pay sanctioned to the various Government officers and the rise of prices Government thought it necessary to give them also, in equity, increased rates of pay, it has erred in grouping two or more offices into one. The result is that one man in addition to his multifarious duties has to attend to the general administration of more villages than one and the efficiency is greatly impaired. In the interests of justice and fairness, the Government should be grateful to the families who have worked for the cause of Government for two or three generations on a very poor pay of Rs. 2½ to Rs. 7 from time to time. At a time when they were anxiously awaiting a larger pay for the very valuable services rendered by themselves and their ancestors, they were deprived of their posts to their great disappointment. They were made an object of ridicule by their villagers for this treatment. The men who were thrown out of their offices do not at all deserve such harsh and unsympathetic treatment at the hands of Government and it is absolutely necessary that they should be remunerated properly for their long and meritorious services. I would therefore request the hon. Member in charge that the original units of offices be restored immediately without any further delay."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam spoke in Telugu.

* MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, just a few words. So far as the question of the number of villages which are to be divided is concerned, I think it is better that the matter, either legitimately or otherwise, whether it comes under this Bill or not, should be placed before the members of the Select Committee, so that the principles on which this re-division must take place may be settled and subordinates in the whole Presidency, from the Collector downwards, may have nothing to do but to see that all those principles are put into practice. Another point that has not been referred to by any hon. Friend is this: This Bill says that the Act shall have force in districts

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Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ In answer to clause (a), we find that ‘ G.O. No. 37, Public, dated the 9th January 1925, has not been withdrawn.’ Sir, we find that this Government Order states ‘ the Government have no power of interference unless the agraphams are connected with business centres. The members of the depressed classes have no free access to the post offices located in agraphams.’ Well, Sir, though the agraphams are connected with business centres or with a post office and if the members of the depressed classes wish to have free access to the post office with a view to transact postal business, they are actually prevented from entering the agraphams. I want to know the reasons why they are prevented.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I was not aware of this until the hon. Member made himself responsible for the statement that members of the depressed classes are prevented from going to the post office. I was under the impression that a post office was a place of business so that the Government Order quoted by the hon. Member would technically apply to cases which he has been complaining of. If the hon. Member would make himself responsible for a contrary statement and specify the cases where such interference took place, the Government would inquire into the matter.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I point out that very recently in a village called Kethandapatti near Jolarpet the members of the depressed classes were prevented from going to the post office through the agrapham?”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHAM (from the chair) :—“ The instance which you refer to does not appear to be the question set down on the agenda paper.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ As the hon. the Law Member asked me to specify the case where such interference was done, I pointed out that instance.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member writes to me how the members of the depressed classes were interfered with or invite my attention to anything that has happened, I shall cause inquiries to be made.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Thank you, Sir.”

Irrigation.

Alleged cancellation of water-supply for inam dry lands by the Collector of Madura.

* 331 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura has issued a notification in the *Madura District Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 13th February 1921, cancelling the permanent supply of water for inam dry lands from the close of fasli 1333;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector insists on every person irrigating or possessing landed interest in a certain land to obtain fresh permission in his name on pain of penalty in spite of the fact that the land was already given permanent supply and was included under a well-defined ayacut or a sluice in the channel?

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be called a fool. Anyhow, the Government seem to have come to the conclusion that whatever the number of these village headmen may be, the grant shall never exceed the present amount Rs. 119 lakhs. I would say that this is very unjust in the interests of these village officers, on whose contentment and loyalty the whole administration is based.

“Therefore, Sir, in the interests of Government themselves and also in the interests of these people I would appeal to the Government to see that these people get at least Rs. 15. The Government may, if necessary, bring a demand for a supplementary grant.”

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB:—“Sir, first of all I have to congratulate the hon. the Revenue Member for this honest attempt to put an end to the longstanding grievance which has been voiced forth on the floor of this House and outside. While welcoming this Bill I have to point out that it is not without its defects, and some of them very serious ones. First of all the Bill is not quite definite as to the person to whom it is going to give redress. So far as I am concerned, Sir, I must tell the hon. Member clearly that if this Bill does not give redress to each and every one of those who were thrown out as a result of the regrouping, we will not be satisfied.

“Then the next most important question is the one relating to the pay of these officers. So far as the village officers are concerned, my hon. Friend from Coimbatore has pointed out that their pay should not be reduced. I also appreciate the idea expressed by my hon. Friend from Chingleput who said that if instead of calling it ‘pay’ you called that an ‘honorarium’ much of the objections raised in the house would cease. I do quite see the point raised. But whether you call it ‘pay’ or whether you call it ‘honorarium’, I am sure the House will strongly object to any proposal to reduce the present scale of Rs. 15. It is a fact well known to every hon. Member of this House that the pay of the lowest member in any establishment is not lower than Rs. 15.

“Again, Sir, as has been pointed out by previous speakers, the Bill is not quite definite as to the control of these Collectors. I strongly urge, Sir, that the right of finality should not be vested in the hands of the Collectors of the districts. I know of instances where the decisions of the Collector have been anything but satisfactory. I do not want to refer to particular cases but I urge that it is pre-emptorily necessary not to vest that right in the Collectors. There must be a provision for appeal to a higher authority than the Collector.”

* Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULI:—“Sir, this question has a history behind it. Some time back a motion was carried in this House for the increase of pay of the village officers. During the debate some hon. Members suggested that Government might even take on hand the regrouping of the villages in order to give effect to the wishes of the House. Government took this up seriously, with the result that the villages were regrouped and so much discontent has been caused and now an attempt is made to restore the old order of things. So far as this Bill is concerned we all welcome it though it is not calculated to achieve the object that we all desire and though it is not calculated to restore to office all those persons who were affected by the regrouping of the villages and the reduction of the number of the village officers. We hope that all these defects will be removed in the Select Committee.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [27th August 1925]

"The important issue now raised is the reduction of the pay of the village officers. As regards that, divergent opinions have been expressed in this House. The hon. the Revenue Member wanted to ascertain how the House would view the proposal to decrease the salaries of the village headmen to Rs. 12. In this connexion I would say that there is much force in the very interesting Telugu speech made by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataratnam."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Which some of us did not understand."

* Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"The hon. Member said that there was no justification for applying this principle, only in the case of the village officers. If this principle were applied even for the higher grades of officers I do not think that the village officers will have any reason to complain. When the higher grades of officers are given increased salaries and allowances without hesitation and without any reference to the increase or decrease in their number, the village officers have every reason to complain that they have not been treated properly. When it is recognized that these village officers discharge most responsible duties in the country, to apply in their case alone of all others in the world, the principle of reducing their salary in case their number is to be increased, is an unjustifiable differentiation which would be strongly opposed in this House. But we are now faced with two alternatives. Are we to neglect those village officers and reduce the scale of pay and thus give effect to the provisions of the Bill or are we to remain content with the status quo? The hon. Member for Chingleput said that so long as you call it 'pay' there would be discontent and dissatisfaction if you attempt to reduce it. When once we have increased the pay we must find it very difficult to go back. The Government must have anticipated when they increased the pay that such a resentment would have been caused by any attempt to reduce it and hesitated before increasing it. Having increased it, now to say that they would reduce it, is a thing which we would strongly protest against. We are placed in a difficult predicament. Sir, I feel that we must in practice be prepared to accept the suggestion of the hon. Member for Chingleput though not to the full extent. We must divide the village headmen into two classes. Even now there are some village headmen who do not care for their pay. But there are others whose only source of livelihood is their salary. We have to make a distinction between these two classes of persons. In former days the most influential persons and the richest persons in the villages were appointed as village headmen. When they found that they could not get better treatment from the officials above, they passed their posts to some clerk of theirs or to some other person and gradually even strangers came to occupy those posts. Most of these influential headmen spent probably more than what they got as their pay when the officials of the Government visited the villages. But we must take into account the other class of headmen whose sole income is their pay. I asked a few headmen whether they would accept reduced pay and they replied that they would rather have no pay at all than take a reduced pay."

"That was the reply given by those who could afford to have their pay reduced. Therefore I would suggest that, instead of embarking upon a policy of reducing their pay, the appointments may be made honorary. I believe that inquiries have been made before and there were several village officers who did not much care for the pay of Rs. 12, but who were quite prepared to accept it as an honorarium. But I hope the

[24th August 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ In answer to clause (a) we find that ‘ G.O. No. 37, Public, dated the 9th January 1925, has not been withdrawn.’ Sir, we find that this Government Order states ‘ the Government have no power of interference unless the agraphams are connected with business centres. The members of the depressed classes have no free access to the post offices located in agraphams.’ Well, Sir, though the agraphams are connected with business centres or with a post office and if the members of the depressed classes wish to have free access to the post office with a view to transact postal business, they are actually prevented from entering the agraphams. I want to know the reasons why they are prevented.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I was not aware of this until the hon. Member made himself responsible for the statement that members of the depressed classes are prevented from going to the post office. I was under the impression that a post office was a place of business so that the Government Order quoted by the hon. Member would technically apply to cases which he has been complaining of. If the hon. Member would make himself responsible for a contrary statement and specify the cases where such interference took place, the Government would inquire into the matter.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I point out that very recently in a village called Kethandapatti near Jolarpet, the members of the depressed classes were prevented from going to the post office through the agrapham ? ”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARI (from the chair) :—“ The instance which you refer to does not apply to the question set down on the agenda paper.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ As the hon. the Law Member asked me to specify the case where such interference was caused, I pointed out that instance.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member writes to me how the members of the depressed classes were interfered with or invite my attention to anything that has happened, I shall cause inquiries to be made.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Thank you, Sir.”

Irrigation.

Alleged cancellation of water-supply for inam dry lands by the Collector of Madura.

* 331 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura has issued a notification in the *Madura District Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 13th February 1924, cancelling the permanent supply of water for inam dry lands from the close of fasli 1333;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector insists on every person irrigating or possessing landed interest in a certain land to obtain fresh permission in his name on pain of penalty in spite of the fact that the land was already given permanent supply and was included under a well-defined ayacut or a sluice in the channel?

[Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks] [27th August 1925]

satisfactorily dealt with in the Select Committee. As regards other questions such as rates of pay, no doubt, the House will have again an opportunity of dealing with them and the Government on their part will be glad to hear more opinions before they finally decide."

The motion that the Village Officers Restoration Bill be read in Council was put and carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of the following Members:—

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju,	Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi,
Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar,	Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu,
" S. R. Y. Ankinadu Prasad Bahadur,	Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai,
" V. Madhava Raja,	" R. Veerian,
" R. Srinivasa Ayyangar,	" E. W. Legh,
" V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar,	The Advocate-General (Mr. T. R. Venkata-
" P. T. Rajan,	rama Sastriyar),
" B. Muniswami Nayudu,	Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, and
" K. Sarabha Reddi,	The Mover (the hon. Mr. N. E. Marjori-
	banks).

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I second it."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned to meet again on 28th October 1925.



R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Dated Fort St. George, the 3rd October 1925.

An Open Competitive Examination for the Indian Civil Service will be held in London in July-August 1926.

2. The age of the candidates on the 1st August 1926 must be less than 24 years but not less than 21 years.

3. Applications from intending candidates must reach the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, 6, Burlington Gardens, London, W. 1., on or before the 15th May 1926. Copies of the form of application and other particulars can be obtained from the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

4. Detailed rules and regulations and a syllabus of the examination will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Chief Secretary to Government.

